Daily Report

Latin America

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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: For three months beginning in November, material formerly appearing in the JPRS LATIN AMERICA REPORT will be published on a trial basis in the FBIS LATIN AMERICA DAILY REPORT.

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Second U.S. Presidential Debate Results Viewed 1
Election 'Commercialism' Scorned 1
Castro Decorates Attache Expelled From UK 2
Castro Visits Smelting Project Under Construction 2
Raul Castro Speaks to Sugar Industry Workers 2
Rodriguez at Reception Marking Ties With EEC 3
Lezcano Meets Hungarian Party Leader in Budapest 3
Balaguer Holds Talks With 'Arafat in PDRY 3
Cooperation Protocol Signed With Guyana 3
FMC Awards Banners to Camaguey EJT Units 4

Grenada

Release of Prisoners Held in Venezuela Sought 4
MBPM Asks Government About Leftist Entry Ban 4

Haiti

Further Protests on Aristide Transfer Reported 4
Konakom, BIP Cited 5
Demonstrators Block Airport Road 5
Aristide Still in Country 5
Further on Airport Incident 6
Innocent's Wife Accuses Avril of 'Assassination' *[AFP]* 6
American, Others Detained in Narcotics Bureau Raid 7
Finance Minister Presents 1988-89 Budget 7
National Radio, TV General Director Replaced 7
Rights Groups Ask Justice Department for Action 7
CATH/CLAT Views Situation With 'Bitterness' 8
Relief for Parents of School Children Sought 8
Harassment by Macoutes in Various Areas Protested 8
'Criminal Landowners' Threaten Northwest Populace 9
Macoute Stronghold Reported in Dufailly 10
FADH Orders Police Headquarters Transfer 10

MEXICO

Possible Oil Price Drop Spurs 'Austerity' *[EFE]* 11
Further on Measures 11

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica

Government To Implement Panama Border Measures *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 16 Oct]* 12

El Salvador

Warrants Issued for Soldiers in Peasants' Deaths 12
Army Spokesmen on Incident *[EL DIARIO DE HOY 14 Oct]* 12
Government Supports Honduran Peace Proposal 12
'Urban Militias' Claim San Salvador Bombing *[DIARIO LATINO 14 Oct]* 13
Rebels Damage Helicopter, Bomb Store in Capital *[Venceremos]* 13

Guatemala

Cerezo Rejects Honduran Border Force Proposal *[ACAN]* 13

Honduras

Azcona on Reaction to Country's Peace Proposal 13
Rebel Group Claims Killing of U.S. Businessman *[Buenos Aires REUTER]* 14

Nicaragua

Ortega Urges Church Condemnation of U.S. 14
Obando Homily Explains Vehicle Purchase *[ACAN]* 16
Further on Comments *[AFP]* 16
PPSC Supports Obando, Condemns 'Campaigns' 17
Opposition Parties in Exile Form New Bloc *[ACAN]* 17
Wheelock Calls for End to Foreign Debt Payments *[LA PRENSA 13 Oct]* 18

Panama

Government To Seize Assets for Unpaid Taxes *[LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL 16 Oct]* 18
Plebiscite Demanded So Solis Can Retain Post *[CRITICA 14 Oct]* 18
Call 'Gaining Ground' *[CRITICA 15 Oct]* 18
Politician Supports Solis *[LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL 16 Oct]* 19
U.S. Helicopter Emergency Landing 'Aggression' *[MATUTINO 14 Oct]* 19
Bank Branch Denies Money Laundering Charges *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 16 Oct]* 19

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Group of 8 Arrives for Antidrug Conference 20

Brazil

Sarney Departs for France, USSR, Portugal 20
Sarney Discusses Soviet Visit 20
Fidel Castro To Visit Sao Paulo on 25 January *[O GLOBO 15 Oct]* 20
Presidential Spokesman Comments *[O GLOBO 15 Oct]* 21

Chile

Report on Repercussions of No-Vote Support *[EFE]* 21
Further on Opposition Parties' Declaration 21
Opposition Calls for Constitutional Amendments 22
FPMR Leader Says Armed Struggle To Be Resumed *[EFE]* 22
Ends 'Truce' *[Madrid]* 23
Matthei on Possible Changes in Constitution *[EFE]* 23
Lagos Denies Presidential Candidacy *[EFE]* 23
Matthei on Possible Lifting of Arms Embargo 24
Air Force Displays Modified Mirage 50 Plane 24

Colombia

Parties, Government Agree on Constitutional Bill 24

Peru

Garcia Addresses Nation, Rejects Coup Rumors 25
Interior Minister Denies Coup Possibility 26
Further Comments 26
Communique Explains General's Retirement *[EFE]* 27
Deputy Interior Minister Comments on Unrest 27
Foreign Minister on Improving Country's Image 28

Uruguay

Interior Minister To Attend Antidrug Meeting 28

Venezuela

Official on 'Normal' Border, Gulf Situation 28

Guyana

Opposition Parties Against U.S. Soldiers' Visit 29

Cuba

Second U.S. Presidential Debate Results Viewed

FL1410210388 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] The campaign for the 8 December [as heard] presidential elections began its final stretch after last night's debate in Los Angeles. The debate was held between the Republican candidate, George Bush, and the Democrat, Michael Dukakis. Two meetings were scheduled; it is peculiar that this last one was held long before the elections. According to U.S. media polls, Bush and Dukakis were about even before the Los Angeles debate.

The Democratic governor from Massachusetts needed an overwhelming victory over the Republican vice president. However, according to the American press, he did not achieve it. Election analysts attribute the results to a bad campaign strategy because Dukakis assumed that the traditional Democratic voters—those of lower and medium income brackets—were guaranteed. Only at the end did he try to secure these votes. To do so, he appealed to civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, but he did not receive much support. Dukakis and his supporters say that they gave a good show in Los Angeles, but the general opinion—and it was strongly proven—is that he did not take the offensive as required by the political scene.

Election 'Commercialism' Scorned

FL1510172788 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1235 GMT 14 Oct 88

[From the "Hot Off the Press" section of "Morning Magazine" by Daniel Torres]

[Text] News from the United States today highlighted the television debate between the two U.S. presidential candidates: Republican George Bush and Democrat Michael Dukakis—Governor Michael Dukakis. I told you yesterday that Dukakis needed an undisputed victory in this television debate to boost an electoral campaign that has led him to assume a defensive position. According to the polls, he is running behind the Republican Party by a few percentage points. However, according to analysts, Dukakis did not come out from this debate as well as he should have. A poll conducted this morning by ABC—a U.S. television network that is perhaps among the three main networks—showed that 49 percent of the votes had gone to Bush and only 33 percent for Dukakis. Both candidates proclaimed themselves winners in this television debate. The truth of the matter, according to this ABC poll—if the poll is to be given credit—is that it favors the Republican Party.

Immediately after the conclusion of the debate, which was organized in Los Angeles, California by journalists who posed questions to the two candidates.... [changes thought] It really turned into a show [preceding word in English]. I saw part of the debate. A NEWSWEEK magazine reporter asked Mr Bush who he thought was a hero of the times, because they ask questions that respond to a sensationalistic pattern or design of the news. Remember that this program is tailored to U.S. television viewers, who are educated in this type of commercial and sensationalistic programming, which constitutes a true show. In addition, research was conducted so that these television debates did not conflict with major league baseball games.

The televised political debate between two candidates who are attempting to reach the U.S. Presidency was viewed at the same level as a major league baseball game. The television broadcasters are concerned over ratings and don't care whether they carry politics or sports. The important thing is to get good ratings. They had to get good ratings. [preceding word in English]

They designed a schedule with the help of computers so that these programs or any other kind of commercial program did not conflict with television transmission. Therefore, an absolutely commercial format and design was used in this type of political program.

The journalists I was referring to were participating within the framework of this format. They asked questions that were absolutely sensationalistic. To ask Mr Bush who is a hero of these times is to ask him a loaded question. You can imagine the kind of response Bush gave. Imagine that Bush said a true and absolute hero of the times was the fake Armando Valladares. This was the kind of response he gave. According to Bush, Mr Ronald Reagan is also a hero of the times. From this point on, the television program practically turned into a farce. The entire U.S. electoral campaign is a farce because it also responds to this publicity campaign pattern.

I recall now that $500 million has been spent in publicity alone in the U.S. electoral campaign. Some specialists were saying it is possible $300 million more may be spent during the remaining time. Only days are left before the presidential election. It is going to be held on 8 November. So, in less than a month they would spend the astronomical figure of $300 million for electoral propaganda.

Imagine; think about it: $500 plus $300 million equals $800 million in electoral campaign publicity alone. I don't know what the underprivileged in the United States think. By the way, they constitute an entire battalion. Thirty million people live in extreme poverty in the United States. I don't know what this powerful group may think about the excessive spending for the electoral campaign.

Well, I was telling you about this absolutely commercial pattern and how the debate developed. Dukakis and Bush had been briefed so that they would not offend each other. They also followed this format. This is another point of view. Usually this kind of debate turns into a sort of boxing ring where one accuses the other

one, where one brings out the other's dirty laundry. This, of course, causes expectation among the television viewers and ends up being the sensationalistic publicity event broadcasters seek.

The truth of the matter, my friends, is that this television debate ended up in a draw. Neither Bush nor Dukakis made big mistakes but Dukakis needed to win unquestionably. This did not happen; therefore, the polls gave the victory to Republican George Bush.

Reagan himself called immediately after the debate ended to congratulate Mr Bush. Dan Quayle, the pretty boy of U.S. politics, also called. He is a very controversial man. He is doing a lot of damage to the Republican Party at this time. Responding to this same pattern.... [changes thought] See how they handle public opinion. First, the electoral campaign follows an absolutely commercial format. Second, Mr Dan Quayle has been made vice presidential candidate—he is 41 years old—with absolutely no experience in politics. Although he is a senator, he is just taking his first steps in U.S. politics. This man was brought into the race because of his resemblance to Robert Redford. He is an elegant and charismatic man. He is a good-looking man. You have to see him on screen. He is a man women like. So, to manage the influence women may have in the U.S. elections, they have brought in Mr Dan Quayle. He promotes absolute militarism in the United States. He promotes support to the anti-Sandinist counterrevolution. He has a recalcitrant and reactionary point of view regarding U.S. foreign policy. He has a strange background because he avoided being drafted for the Vietnam war. He was also granted an honorary degree from Indiana University when it is known that his record was not outstanding. There are other things of that nature. He was brought in because he fits the pattern of commercialism. Therefore, he is going to aspire to the U.S. vice presidency, risking the fact that in Bush's absence—because he is member of the Republican Party—at some point this inexperienced could become President of the United States.

Castro Decorates Attache Expelled From UK

FL1510115988 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1134 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Last night, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro bestowed the Eliseo Reyes Medal on Comrade Carlos Manuel Medina Perez, former trade attache of the Cuban Embassy in the UK. The Council of State document, which conferred the high decoration on Medina Perez, states that the young Cuban, faced with a provocation by the Central Intelligence Agency through its British henchmen and a miserable traitor, responded in the only way possible, opening fire in the name of the honor of 10 million Cubans.

The medal acknowledges the courage of Medina Perez, who risked his life and is a worthy example of the young revolutionary generation. Fidel pinned the Eliseo Reyes Medal on the chest of Medina Perez, whom he embraced and congratulated on behalf of the party, the government, and the people.

Castro Visits Smelting Project Under Construction

FL1510123888 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1132 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has visited the block smelting enterprise shop for the automobile industry under construction at La Lisa Municipality in Havana.

The first secretary of the party noted the fast pace at which the Blas Roca Calderio contingent is carrying out the excavation for the construction of a molding tunnel of large components and the roads for the center.

Candido Palmero, chief of the contingent, told Radio Reloj: We will have to move 16 cubic meters of dirt but we will help the combative comrades of the new enterprise in any other task. With the contribution of several factories, such as this one being built in La Lisa, we will be able to have an integrated automobile industry in our country. This is an old wish that is beginning to become a reality, said Fidel.

In response to the incentive Fidel's visit has provided for the workers of the component smelting enterprise for the automobile industry, the workers pledged to produce the first test blocks this year. This was reported to Radio Reloj by Engineer Roberto Maqueira Morales, head manager, who said 10,000 engine blocks a year will be supplied when the enterprise is working at full capacity. The enterprise will produce 18 engine parts for interprovince and city buses and for trucks. The investment project amounts to 15 million pesos and already has 5 buildings over a 15-square-meter area.

I believe that this shop's development perspectives are very big, said Engineer Luis de Leon, one of the Spanish advisers of the nascent industry.

Raul Castro Speaks to Sugar Industry Workers

FL1410180388 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1250 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] The young and victorious Batalla de las Guasimas complex was the first among the ones built by the revolution to exceed the 100,000 tons of sugar mark, precisely during this last harvest. The complex was the honorable site of the national ceremony marking the sugar industry workers' day. The ceremony was presided over by Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee and minister of the FAR.

During the emotional ceremony, Raul Castro noted the joy of the combatants of the Youth Labor Army [EJT] on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the most productive force in the country.

Not even the persistent rain overshadowed the enthusiasm of the Camaguey sugar industry workers or national vanguard workers who were in attendance representing the various provinces.

The two anniversaries are marked in Camaguey in recognition of a number of labor feats that enabled the province to exceed by 30,000 tons the sugar production goal planned for last harvest.

Holguin and Ciego de Avila also received their trophies for second and third place in the country's harvest special emulation. The men and women who have put their hearts and souls into the tasks of our first industry were also honored.

During the opening, Juan Dieguez Almaguer, secretary general of the National Sugar Industry Workers Union, noted that the Camaguey sugar industry workers will not fail—as urged by Commander in Chief Fidel—to improve the harvest's production and efficiency.

The words of Comrade Raul were especially significant. He said:

[Begin recording] Camaguey is developing now. It now compensates the rest of the country with its effort and work for the sacrifices of those years. We know that while the country's average population density is approximately 88 per square kilometer, Camaguey has 44 or 45 inhabitants per square kilometer. This will be compensated by productivity, by the development of science and technology applied fundamentally to agriculture, and, in particular, by the work of the men and women of Camaguey. [end recording]

Later, the second secretary of the PCC Central Committee added:

[Begin recording] The time has come to achieve a steady 1 million. The time for a steady 1 million means that 1 million is produced during the next harvest, the following one, etc. Not 1 million 1 time, 800,000 or 900,000 another. The time has come to achieve a steady 1 million. What do the sugar industry workers and the EJT think? [crowd cheers and applauds] You have the will to exceed the 1 million mark. You will achieve it. The problem is to maintain the 1 million mark and always exceed it. [end recording]

Julian Rizo Alvarez, alternate member of the PCC Politburo and secretary of the Central Committe, said in his closing remarks:

[Begin recording] I invite you to ensure that with each ton of sugar there will be new victories for our people and their dear chief, Comrade Fidel, in their just and unstoppable struggle for the present and a better future. Fartherland or death, we will win! [crowd repeats: We will win!] [end recording]

Rodriguez at Reception Marking Ties With EEC

FL1410184888 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez has attended a reception held in Havana to celebrate the establishment of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the EEC. The reception was hosted by Elizabeth Papasoi, Greek ambassador to Cuba and representative in Cuba of the EEC leadership.

Lezcano Meets Hungarian Party Leader in Budapest

FL1410232088 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2039 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Karoly Grosz, secretary general of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party, met today in Budapest with Jorge Lezcano Perez, Cuban party leader, who is on an official visit to Hungary.

During the meeting, the two parties (?exchanged) mutual information on the political and economic situation of the two countries. Lezcano Perez, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary in Havana City, told PRENSA LATINA the talks with Prime Minister [as heard] Grosz developed in an atmosphere of friendship and warmth that has characterized the ties between Hungary and Cuba.

Balaguer Holds Talks With 'Arafat in PDRY

FL1510144988 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1137 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Jose Ramon Balaguer, secretary of the PCC Central Committee, has held an extensive and fraternal exchange of views with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. During the meeting, which took place in Aden, capital of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], 'Arafat reiterated his admiration and respect for Commander in Chief Fidel Castro.

The PLO leader also explained to Balaguer the development of the Palestinian uprising in Israeli-occupied territories, and the Cuban leader referred to the measures implemented in our country regarding the rectification of mistakes process. The two leaders affirmed the historic friendship and relations of solidarity between the Cuban party and government and the PLO, as well as Cuba's support to the just struggle of the Palestine people.

Cooperation Protocol Signed With Guyana

FL1410041388 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo, has met with Mr (Seeram Prashud), member of the central executive committee and chairman of the general council of the finance committee for the People's National Congress [PNC] party.

During the meeting, which was held in a warm and fraternal atmosphere, Mr (Prashud) expressed the gratitude of his party and his delegation colleagues, as well as his own thanks, for the courteous and hospitable treatment received by his committee. He highlighted the exemplary nature of the ties which the PNC party of Guyana and the PCC have maintained for over 15 years. He also termed as positive the cooperation relations, especially in the field of medical training. (Prashud) said he is in favor of examining other agreements in which the two countries could increase their trade.

For his part, Risquet agreed with (Prashud) on maintaining the mutual understanding and relations of the two parties.

At the end of the talks, a cooperation protocol between the two parties was signed.

FMC Awards Banners to Camaguey EJT Units

FL1410033088 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Vilma Espin, member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo and president of the FMC [Federation of Cuban Women], presented the 23 August banner to military units and officers of the Youth Labor Army [EJT] in Camaguey Province.

As part of the main activities marking the 15th anniversary of the EJT, a large group of officers and soldiers in Camaguey received the 28 August and 23 September awards. These awards are high honors granted by the FMC and by the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR].

Comrade Vilma Espin attended the award ceremony, which was also presided over by Lazaro Vazquez Garcia, alternate member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the party in Camaguey, and Division General Rogelio Acevedo, member of the PCC Central Committee and chief of the FAR Central Political Directorate, among other leaders. The commands of Pinar del Rio, Ciego de Avila, and Camaguey received the 23 August banner, which is granted by the women's organization in recognition of combatants who have demonstrated heroism in vital fronts of the economy such as sugar, coffee, construction, and railroad. It is also granted to those who have given support in the struggle for the complete equality of women.

The ceremony highlighted the dedication of those who received the awards to production tasks and to the defense of the principles of the revolution as CDR soldiers, and as CDR members, soldiers of the fatherland.

Grenada

Release of Prisoners Held in Venezuela Sought

FL1310135488 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] A group of Grenadians are being held in a Venezuelan prison for dealing in prohibited goods. Grenadian Foreign Minister Ben Jones travels to Venezuela today hoping to obtain their release. Reports reaching the Grenadian Government were that the prisoners were being denied basic food and sanitary conditions.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister German Nava Carrillo was in Dominica yesterday but he made no mention of the prisoners issue. He did express support for the move toward political unity in the Eastern Caribbean. He made the speech during a ceremony in which a bust of the Latin American liberator, Simon Bolivar, was unveiled in the capital, Roseau.

MBPM Asks Government About Leftist Entry Ban

FL1310194788 Bridgetown CANA in English 1424 GMT 11 Oct 88

[Excerpt] St George's, Grenada, Oct 11, CANA—Grenada's small leftwing Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM) has approached government to find out whether its entry ban on several Caribbean leftists was still in effect.

Party leader Dr Terry Marryshow says he brought up the issue with National Security Advisor Glen Mignon, since the MBPM planned inviting a number of regional opposition politicians for activities to mark the 5th anniversary of the fall of Grenada's first leftist revolution. Marryshow mentioned in particular Tim Hector, head of the Antigue-Caribbean Liberation Movement, Michael Douglas of the Dominica Labour Party, and Julian Hunte of the St Lucia Labour Party. Of the three, Douglas' name surfaced on a Grenada Government entry ban list in May, when the MBPM was prevented from bringing in a number of Caribbean leftists to attend the party's convention and African liberation day activities.

Marryshow, a Cuban-trained doctor, said that the meeting with Mignon was intended to get guidance since the party did not want to have a repetition of last May's incident. "He (Mignon) said that we should write a letter to government stating what our plans are and that it would be treated on its own merit," Marryshow remarked. [passage omitted]

Haiti

Further Protests on Aristide Transfer Reported

FL1510175888 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Several thousand people gathered yesterday morning in front of St Jean Bosco Church at the invitation of several Haitian political organizations to demonstrate

in support of Father Jean Bertrand Aristide, head of the Haitian grass-roots church. [passage omitted] The demonstrators asked that the Catholic hierarchy make some kind of statement as quickly as possible regarding the case of Father Aristide, who, according to the demonstrators, is a native-born Haitian and is going nowhere.

In this connection, we met up with Evans Paul, one of the organizers of the demonstration. Let's listen to what he said:

[Begin Paul recording] This is an action taken by the Haitian people to demand Father Aristide's presence in Haiti. This demonstration is not only on account of Father Aristide, whom they want to exile. It is also a way for the Haitian people to mobilize to form what we call the people's camp, so as to put power into the hands of the people. It is the only way to "uproot" the macoutes in all sectors of Haiti—in the Army, in the government, and in the church.

This demonstration is the beginning of a series of movements that will last until the Haitian people are able to breathe. This country is suffering from a macoute infection that has spread throughout its body. In the church hierarchy, the government, and everywhere else, the only verb being conjugated is a macoute verb.

The time must come for Haitians to have their own people—people who represent the aspirations of the masses and who are willing to struggle to defend the interests of Haitians. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Konakom, BIP Cited

FL1510180488 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Excerpts] The National Committee of the Congress of Democratic Movements [Konakom] and the Patriotic Unitarian Bloc [BIP] remind all serious patriots that the country must not continue to lose good fighters against injustice, exploitation, ignorance, and repression. [passage omitted]

We cannot talk about 17 September 1988 without Aristide. Neither can the Department of the Public Prosecutor and the examining magistrates open a dossier on the 11 September massacre without him. Father Aristide is one of the main witnesses. In order to further justice in Haiti, we ask Rome and the Haitian church to reconsider the decision regarding Father Aristide's departure. [passage omitted]

The note is signed by Victor Benoit and Jean-Claude Bajeux for Konakom, and by Serges Gilles and Dejean Belizaire for BIP.

Demonstrators Block Airport Road

FL1410202388 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] It is 1446. We have learned from our reporters on the road to the airport that burning barricades and rocks have been laid across the road to the airport to prevent vehicles from getting there. Our reporters also told us that there was already a truckload of soldiers on the way to the airport. It has gone around the curve on the way to the airport.

The reporter said that there was much shooting in the air in an attempt to disperse the demonstrators, who were trying to enter and block the way to the Mais Gate Airport.

That is why we are once again informing the population that according to Msgr Guire Poulard, bishop of Jacmel, whom we just contacted, Father Aristide is not going to the airport today, as rumor has it.

Thus, this is a rumor and everyone can go home in order to avoid any regrettable incidents.

Aristide Still in Country

FL1410220788 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1955 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] This afternoon's demonstration on the road to the airport caused—or rather, is still causing—a gigantic traffic jam in the area and in various other streets in Port-au-Prince. There are burning barricades visible on the road to the airport. Our reporter on the scene is going to tell us exactly what is going on there.

[Mobile Unit 19 reporter—live] Thank you, (Klebert). We saw the road to the airport, which also leads to the industrial park. There were barricades at the corner of the road to the airport and Rue (Carlsborough), at that feeder road that leads to Delmas 19. Carcasses of vehicles and old tires were set on fire in protest, following a rumor to the effect that Father Jean Bertrand Aristide was at Mais Gate International Airport on his way out of the country.

This is making traffic really difficult at present for vehicles coming from the direction of the airport that might want to detour using Delmas 19. There is also a gigantic traffic jam at the corner of this street and Delmas Road. Mobile Unit 20 is also in the area. He is going to tell us what he is seeing.

[Mobile Unit 20 reporter] Thank you, Mobile Unit 19. Indeed, we have been on the other streets in the capital. Everything is fine, except for the horrendous traffic jams noted at all intersections—whether on Lalue, along the Bourdon area, or on any other street. The

situation is the same all over—horrendous traffic jams on this Friday, the beginning of the weekend, a weekend that is going to be very, very long. Mobile 19, do you have anything to add?

[Mobile Unit 19 reporter] Only that barely 10 minutes ago, in the courtyard of Radio Soleil, the voice of the Catholic Church, we met Father Antoine Adrien, who confirmed to us that Father Jean Bertrand Aristide has not left. Father Adrien added: I am not confirming it. I am affirming it.

Mobile Unit (?20) wants to say something.

[Mobile Unit (?20) reporter] I want to add that many forces for maintaining order have just left the airport—helmeted soldiers from the police's anti-riot section. They are here. They are (?on their way) back from Mais Gate International Airport, where there was a rumor this morning to the effect that Father Aristide was leaving Haiti.

Thus, that is what the situation is like right now in the streets of the capital—traffic jams and burning barricades on the airport road, but everything is fine on the other streets in the capital.

[Announcer] If one of you gentlemen is listening, can you tell us if the demonstration has broken up now, or is it still going on?

[Mobile] Affirmative, (Klebert). It has broken up. Many of the demonstrators went to Radio Soleil, where, like us, they met Father Antoine Adrien, who confirmed, and I quote him: I am not confirming—I am affirming—that Father Jean Bertrand Aristide has not left.

[Announcer] Thank you very much.

Further on Airport Incident

FL1410224888 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 2000 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Father Jean Bertrand Aristide is not leaving today. He is not at the International Airport. Go back home. Thus spoke Msgr Guire Poulard, bishop of Jacmel, on Radio Soleil's newscast this afternoon. He was reassuring the population so that people would not go to the airport road, where there might be obstacles and also where there might be disorder, following this morning's demonstration. The bishop called this act—the directing of people to the airport—unscrupulous. [passage omitted]

Since Msgr Poulard is part of the Catholic Church hierarchy, he thus also announced—confirmed—the rumor circulating in Port-au-Prince to the effect that the bishops are meeting to see what they can do to prevent Father Aristide's having to leave Haiti before 17 September [as heard]. The decision to transfer Father Aristide came from the Vatican.

We, ourselves, verified that Father Aristide had gone nowhere. He was eating lunch at noon, while the rumor to the effect that he was at the International Airport was circulating.

However, this morning there was another demonstration of solidarity with Father Aristide organized by the People's National Assembly. There were some 4,000 people in the streets. We had a reporter on the scene. Let's listen to (Price).

[(Price)] [Passage omitted] A few minutes later, however, just as the demonstration was going to disperse, a rumor to the fact that Father "Titide" was at the airport began circulating. It was said that he and Msgr Ligonde were at the airport, getting ready to leave.

The people in the demonstration began running up Lalue and stopping cars by force, getting in them to go to the airport, where they set up barricades along the road. The airport police intervened and dispersed these people, even though there were still some tires burning. Suddenly, the people who set up the barricades also found themselves up against the airport security police and a squad from the Dessalines Barracks, which came to the airport crossroads to (?facilitate) removal of the barricades. [passage omitted]

Innocent's Wife Accuses Avril of 'Assassination'

PA1410231688 Paris AFP in Spanish 2219 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Caracas, 14 Oct (AFP)—Haitian politician Luc Innocent, who, according to official reports, was killed last Saturday during an attack on military barracks in Terre Froide near the Dominican border, was actually killed in Port-au-Prince and his body taken to Terre Froide, his widow said in Caracas today.

In statements to AFP, Gladys Espinoza de Innocent, a Venezuelan national, said that General Prosper Avril, the Haitian head of state, had set up a trap for her husband to murder him. She complained that the Haitian Government refuses to turn over her husband's body to her.

Innocent was the leader of a small radical political group called the Revolutionary Unity Movement [Movimiento de Union Revolucionaria].

According to his widow, 15 days before the "assassination," Innocent was visited in Santo Domingo by three Haitian military men sent by Gen Avril to convince him to return to Haiti. He decided to return to his country and arrived in Port-au-Prince via ground transportation last Saturday, along with 12 unarmed men.

According to his widow, Innocent was "betrayed" by one of his own men, surprised in the house where he was staying, and killed "along with six or eight other people."

Innocent's body was then taken to Terre Froide to make it look as if he had been killed during an armed clash, the woman said.

American, Others Detained in Narcotics Bureau Raid
FL1510184388 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Narcotics Bureau head Major Ramus St-Vil and his men have raided the residence of several foreigners—two Colombians, an American, and an Italian—on the Freres Road [Petion-Ville]. They found sophisticated communications equipment with worldwide capability at the residence, as well as drums of gasoline and other things. [passage omitted] Major St-Vil said that a small amount of cocaine, which these foreigners smoked, and a few laboratory products, chemical products, were also found at the residence.

These foreigners, who were part of a drug-trafficking network abroad, are now in police custody awaiting investigation so that legal action can be taken, said the head of the Port-au-Prince Narcotics Bureau.

Finance Minister Presents 1988-89 Budget
FL1510174788 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Excerpt] At the Finance Ministry yesterday, Minister Leonce Thelusma presented the government's national budget for fiscal year 1988-89 to reporters. The minister said there is something brand new about this budget: For one thing, it is based exclusively on local, Haitian, resources. Also, it contains only income from our government institutions, such as money from the General Tax Administration, the tax office, transfers (?from) public enterprises, and customs administration.

This budget, which is not buttressed in any way by money from foreign countries, amounts to 1,000,334,000 gourdes. In addition, said Finance Minister Thelusma, there is no inflation factored in it.

Finally, the minister declared that the budget was not the work of the Finance Ministry alone—that the private sector had helped with it, which might help them bring in the money. Thus, the private sector made a considerable contribution. This is unprecedented in the history of Haiti.

The minister stated that because there is no inflation in it, the new budget puts into concrete form the effort that must be made by the Haitian people to be able to meet their obligations during fiscal year 1988-89. The minister added that the openness of government institutions will not fail to encourage the Haitian people to pay taxes normally. [passage omitted]

National Radio, TV General Director Replaced
FL1310203788 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Information and Coordination Minister Anthony Virginie Saint-Pierre yesterday appointed a four-person board of directors to run RTNH radio and television, replacing Mr Jean Camille [former general director of RTNH radio and television].

Until a new general director is appointed, Mrs Anaise Chavenet will run the RTNH radio and television news departments, Mr (Wesner Juste) will be the administrative director, Mr (Jean Coulanges) will be director of programming, and Mr (Roosevelt Poteau) will be technical director.

In a statement to AFP shortly after her appointment, Mrs Chavenet said her objective would be to restore the credibility of the government radio and television network and to reconcile it with public opinion.

Rights Groups Ask Justice Department for Action
FL1510181588 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Excerpts] On the occasion of the 1st anniversary of the death of lawyer Yves Volel, human rights organizations pay tribute to his memory while asking the Justice Department many questions at the same time.

These organizations say that 25 days after the 17 September coup d'etat and approximately a month after the St Jean Bosco Church massacre, the human rights organizations are once again obliged to intervene to point out that rule of law cannot exist without a clear-cut dispensation of justice. However, to this day, it still looks as if justice is being administered (?by inertia). It is beginning to look like the settling of old accounts, without the Justice Department taking any measures to (?say where the law lies) or to respond to the expectations to which the 17 September movement gave rise in the hearts of the population of Haiti. [passage omitted]

Why have legal proceedings never been initiated so far against those accused of responsibility for the crimes committed on 26 April [1986] in front of Fort Dimanche; on 29 November on Ruelle Vaillant; in Jean-Rabel, Labadie, and Hinche; at St Jean Bosco Church—to cite only a few? Although some of these crimes may require that, for the first time in Haiti, an exemplary and serious investigation be conducted, there are a number of other crimes the perpetrators of which have already been pointed out by victims and witnesses, such as the crimes committed on Ruelle Vaillant, in Hinche, in Labadie, and at St Jean Bosco. All the guilty parties in these crimes have already been named. Does the Justice Court really have to await further proof in these cases?

Second, how long are the section chiefs going to continue to act as judges in this country? [passage omitted]

There are a number of questions such as these that the defenders of human rights find striking. They are awaiting specific answers to these questions, in order be able to begin to trust. Therefore, these five human rights organizations call on the Justice Department to shoulder its responsibilities. [passage omitted]

Arnold Antonin signs for the National Network for the Defense of Human Rights, (Branly Oge) for the Motivational Institute for Democratic Instruction, (Saurel Jacinthe) for the Ecumenical Center for Human Rights, (Renand Pierre) for the Lafontant Joseph Center for the Promotion of Human Rights, and (Joseph Maxi) for the Haitian Human Rights League.

CATH/CLAT Views Situation With 'Bitterness'

FL1510183288 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Excerpts] The Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers affiliated with the Latin American Central Organization of Workers [CATH/CLAT] held a news conference yesterday morning to set forth its position on the current situation in Haiti. [passage omitted]

CATH/CLAT said that 28 days after the overthrow of the Namphy military government, it notes with much bitterness that there has been no progress as regards Haiti's political situation. [passage omitted] The union stated that it is very much afraid of what it described as veiled uprootings, which are being mixed in with the Haitian people's demands. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording of unidentified speaker] [Passage omitted] We cannot understand why the only thing going on is that political leaders are parading in and out of the National Palace, to discuss a political calendar. [passage omitted] This union's concerns are not focused on a calendar. What we consider important is the fact that we know we are living in a country that is sick, that is rotten—a country whose economy is totally shot and on the brink of the abyss.

Nothing has been said, no project undertaken, nothing announced by any participant in the coup d'etat or any government authority as to what is going to be done next. CATH/CLAT is asking the country's leaders—Sergeant Heubreux or General Prosper Avril or whoever, and the entire cabinet: What is going to be done next? They must talk. [passage omitted] They must tell us what is going to be done next, so that everyone will have a clear idea of things, can understand what is going on. [passage omitted]

The peasants and the workers have many complaints against the court system here in Haiti. The special labor court constitutes the peasants' and workers' Calvary—in particular, the true Pandora's box of corruption and crooked wheeling and dealing that workers fired for belonging to unions must face. [passage omitted]

Today CATH/CLAT also takes this opportunity to denounce ONA [National Old Age Insurance Office] and Ofatma [Office of Work Accidents, Illness, and Maternity], which are two offices full of wheeling and dealing, full of thieves. Since the Papa Doc regime created these two offices full of thieves, with their crooked boards of directors, there has always been disorder and theft within them. If both these offices are meant to provide social security for workers, they should be run by a single board of directors. The organic law governing their operation should be revamped. CATH/CLAT feels that the (?American) experts who have come to Haiti for a year should sit down with everyone involved in this matter and rethink what they call social security here in Haiti. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Relief for Parents of School Children Sought

FL1410154188 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 1600 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Excerpts] PANPRA [National Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti] has called for measures to provide relief to families on the occasion of the beginning of the new school year. Here is Serges Gilles [head of PANPRA] before our microphone.

[Gilles] Well, we think that the beginning of the school year is something national, and something that causes big problems for all parents sending children to school; furthermore, it is happening at a time when the economic and social situation is extremely difficult. Thus, we have made a certain number of proposals leaning in the direction of national solidarity. That is, we are asking if all merchants, school directors, and bookstore owners could see their way clear to deciding, together, how they could make the back-to-school period a lot easier for 80 percent of the parents sending kids to school. Thus, in the text we sent, we made a series of proposals. [passage omitted]

Basically, we think now is the moment to express national solidarity with parents. [passage omitted]

We say that to simply talk of solidarity is not enough; there are moments when concrete action is called for. And that is why we made this series of proposals.

Harassment by Macoutes in Various Areas Protested

FL1410192488 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Msgr Francois Gayot, archbishop of Cap Haitien, raised his voice again yesterday to protest the acts of repression and intimidation being committed by section chiefs and tontons macoutes against chapel directors, grass-roots church group leaders, the faithful in Plaisance, (Ti Bouc au Borgne), and Mont Organise. Msgr Gayot asked the authorities to intervene and solve this problem in order to make the situation more tolerable in the area.

[Begin Gayot recording] There are three parishes—(Ti Bouc au Borgne), Plaisance, and Mont Organise—where people's lives are being threatened because the section chiefs are doing everything they can to terrorize the population. In the Boucan Michel section (?of) (Ti Bouc au Borgne), many people were arrested. Once they released these people, they went on to (Marre Rond), first communal section of Le Borgne. The group leaders of the grass-roots parishes cannot even assemble the faithful because the section chief and his assistant are threatening them and preventing them from carrying out the church's work.

In the eighth section of the commune of Camp Coq, at a place called (Winavel), a group of the faithful declares that the section chief has threatened them and constantly tries to intimidate them.

In the parish of Mont Organise, the situation is even more serious. On Sunday, 2 October, the festival of St Theresa—the parish's patron saint—the mass was disrupted by a group of tontons macoutes who came and stood in front of the church to cause disorder. No one said anything at all to them.

On Thursday, 6 October, from 2200 to midnight, a group surrounded the presbytery in Mont Organise and threw rocks at it. They broke the presbytery windows. They heaved rocks on the roof in order to make the roof collapse. They even tried to heave a rock onto the priest's bed. Luckily he did not sleep in that bed that night. Thus he escaped being hit by the rock.

We vigorously protest these criminal acts and ask the authorities to intervene, to make these people who are trying to bother the group leaders and the priests (?step back into line).

We must tell you that the church's only objective is to help the Haitian people, particularly the poor, live better as human beings and as Christians. That is our only passion, our only goal—and we will remain faithful to that goal to the end. You must be informed that the church of Jesus Christ has only one reason for existing—to help the Haitian people truly become a people and to help the poor become fully human, together with (?us).[end recording]

'Criminal Landowners' Threaten Northwest Populace

FL1410173188 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] In northwestern Haiti, the situation is again deteriorating. Everyone is crying out against the big criminal landowners responsible for the 23 July massacre. These men have once again gone into action. They have again begun distributing machetes and threatening to do away with peasant cooperative action group members.

These men (?claim) to have the support of the soldiers in the Jean-Rabel and Port-de-Paix areas. They say that if the peasant group members begin meeting again, they will do away with them—this time entirely.

In a (?long) letter addressed to the 17 September movement, soldiers in Port-de-Paix, the press, and the small peasant farmers of the cooperative action groups say that they have never—since the Jean-Rabel massacre—had any respite from the threats, pressure, false accusations, and beatings of the big macoute landowners, section chiefs, assistant section chiefs, and group of thugs made up of all the former leaders of the groups that massacred their brothers.

They say that they expected the 17 September movement to bring them a small improvement, but that upon seeing what is happening, it appears nothing has changed. The only thing they have noticed is that the big macoute landowners, section chiefs, assistant section chiefs, and thug group leaders have gotten together to sow fear among the small peasant farmers of the cooperative action groups, in order to spy on and prevent any meetings or rallies that they might wish to hold.

These men claim that the Army in Jean-Rabel and Port-de-Paix is on their side. The Army has given them the right to crush the cooperative action groups any way they want. They are also going around saying, like they did before the massacre, that the tactical unit in Port-de-Paix and the police in Jean-Rabel are going to come and do away entirely with the small peasant farmers from the cooperative action groups and with the cooperative action groups' plans in the Jean-Rabel area if they dare to organize and hold meetings.

They add that whereas there is a nationwide movement to collect the weapons of all the macoutes and detectives, this is not the case in Jean-Rabel. There, instead of weapons being collected, they are being distributed. They say that in Cabaret, Gros Bassin, (Dubois), (Lucksaint Saint-Vil), and (Innocent Metayer)—two main organizers of the 23 July massacre—are heading the group of thugs distributing weapons. They also report that the big landowners responsible for that massacre distributed machetes last week in the village of Colette. [passage omitted]

They give the names of the various people involved in the 23 July massacre. [passage omitted]

They say that in view of this situation threatening their lives, they, the small peasant farmers of cooperative action groups in Jean-Rabel, ask the following: that the enlisted men and the commanding officer in Port-de-Paix take a clear public stand on the statements being made by the macoutes in the area to the effect that the Army in Port-de-Paix is on their side and supporting them in all their actions against cooperative action group members.

They also ask that the Army in Port-de-Paix take a clear public stand on the rumor being circulated in the area by the macoutes to the effect that the tactical unit from Port-de-Paix is going to come out and put a definitive end to the plans of the cooperative action groups in Jean-Rabel.

They ask for the enlisted men and the new commanding officer in Port-de-Paix to disarm and immediately arrest all the groups of thugs [Sans Mamans] in the commune of Jean-Rabel, and for the Justice Department to form a special court to judge all the criminal perpetrators of and accomplices in the 23 July 1987 massacre of their brothers. They gave a long list of people involved in the massacre. They ask that there be a good cleanup among the section chiefs and assistant section chiefs all over the commune of Jean-Rabel. In addition, they ask for the church authorities in Jean-Rabel and in the diocese of Port-de-Paix to take a clear and public stand on this current situation in Port-de-Paix.

They also ask the authorities in Port-au-Prince to take a look at what is happening in the provinces, particularly in Jean-Rabel, where the situation today is not at all good.

Macoute Stronghold Reported in Dufailly

FL1210175988 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 11 Oct 88

[Report by Mirebalais correspondent Mirabeau Louis]

[Excerpts] Yesterday, Monday, we received two young people from Dufailly. They told us there is a macoute club that has come from Port-au-Prince to hide in (?Pelem), near Dufailly. These men go there to hold their meetings every night; they have weapons.

The young people explained to us that it was a woman named Marie, a former employee of Franck Romain, who appeared on television to let it be known that she had participated in the St Jean Bosco massacre. Thus, the young people say that they are afraid out there. Listen to their statements before our microphone.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] [Passage omitted] The biggest problem for the people of Dufailly is when we look at the massacre at St Jean Bosco on 11 September. There are people who participated in that massacre, and who even appeared on television, but who have managed to go into hiding in Dufailly. This is something we cannot understand. And tonton macoutes are dangerous beasts, because they are armed.

[Reporter] Can you tell us exactly where in the area they are hidden?

[Speaker] The people who appeared on television after the 11 September massacre—a woman and a man—well, the woman is hidden in the Dufailly area. Her friends come to see her with no problems. She talks. She talked to a few people in the area whom she met, and she said that it was she who appeared on television, and all that. And of course I think [words indistinct] Port-au-Prince they are looking for her. [Words indistinct] she says she was an employee of Franck Romain. She had two jobs. She had a job (?in Dufailly) and she was also (?getting a check) from Port-au-Prince city hall.

Thus, the young people, the population of Dufailly, ask the authorities in Mirebalais to come take a look at this for us, in (?Dufailly), please. It is time we got rid of these people who cause us many problems.

[Reporter] So, the place is full of macoutes?

[Speaker] Many, many. There are many macoutes. And they drive around all over the place in Pajeros and other vehicles, and so forth—with no problems whatsoever.

[Reporter] OK, thanks. [end recording] [passage omitted]

FADH Orders Police Headquarters Transfer

FL1310200988 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] The Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] High Command informs the general public that the head of the Port-au-Prince police has been ordered to transfer the general headquarters of the 22d Company, now at Fort Dimanche, to the premises of the sub-station in Delmas, which is located on Delmas 33. The 22d Company, Fort Dimanche, will carry out its police mission in the capital and its environs jointly with the other police units in Port-au-Prince.

The High Command also informs the general public that the FADH explosives storehouses currently at the site that is to be put to another use—that is, Fort Dimanche—are going to be isolated and put under the control of the weapons and supplies department of the FADH.

This press release announcing that Fort Dimanche is to be used for another purpose is signed by Andre Jean-Pierre, adjutant general, FADH.

Possible Oil Price Drop Spurs 'Austerity'

PA1610215788 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2055 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Mexico City, 16 Oct (EFE)—The Mexican Government today ordered an "economic adjustment," which includes a budget cut, greater monetary and credit control, the sale of state enterprises, and a request for a foreign loan, in light of an expected sharp drop in oil prices.

The Intersecretariat Commission of Expenditures and Financing reported that the Miguel de la Madrid administration, after consultations with President-elect Carlos Salinas Gortari [words indistinct], decided to request a foreign credit, the amount of which has not been disclosed.

According to the source, "fresh money" is needed to "mitigate the effect of a possible reduction in oil revenues in the current balance of payments account."

The new contingency plan comes 45 days before De la Madrid hands over the presidency to Salinas de Gortari.

The new austerity measures will be carried out based on procedures established by the Intersecretariat Commission of Expenditures and Financing, under the supervision of President Miguel de la Madrid. The measures will have an impact of more than $560 million.

The plan includes a $257-million cut in public expenditures, which will be applied to the administration's central and industrial sectors but which will not affect social programs.

The adjustment program, issued as a result of the "uncertainty" in the world oil market, includes the sale of approximately 50 nonstrategic parastatal enterprises, from which the government will obtain approximately $310 million.

According to official sources, these measures will have a positive effect on the primary surplus of public accounts, as well as on the goals established by the Economic Solidarity Pact's fight against inflation.

The commission indicated that the emergency plan will force the Finance Secretariat and the Bank of Mexico to maintain greater control over monetary and credit matters while not placing undue restrictions on domestic interest rates.

According to estimates based on official figures, Mexico's oil revenues will be reduced by more than $2 billion in 1988 as a result of the "price war" being waged on the world oil market.

At the beginning of the year, Mexican financial authorities estimated that oil revenues would amount to $8.5 billion, but in fact these revenues will only amount to approximately $6 billion.

Further on Measures

PA1710035288 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0135 GMT 17 Oct 88

[Text] The federal government, through the Finance, Planning and Budget, Comptrollership, and Labor Secretariats and the Bank of Mexico, announced measures that will be adopted by Mexico in response to the uncertainty characterizing the world oil market. These secretariats, which comprise the Intersecretariat Commission of Expenditures and Financing, established, among other actions, a 590-billion peso budget adjustment, which will have an impact on the central and industrial sectors but which will not affect social programs.

A communique stated that in view of the uncertain world oil market, the commission submitted to the Mexican president for his consideration a number of precautionary measures, which have been approved. They include the following:

The Planning and Budget Secretariat will carry out a 590-billion peso budget adjustment, which will have a favorable impact on the primary surplus of public finances. This will compensate for more than half of the possible loss in oil revenues for the rest of 1988, and will guarantee a primary surplus, consistent with the Economic Solidarity Pact's objectives.

In accordance with legal procedures, the Intersecretariat Commission of Expenditures and Financing must undertake the necessary steps to sell approximately 50 nonpriority enterprises in October and November. This sale could provide the government with nearly 700 million pesos. The Finance and Public Credit Secretariat and the Bank of Mexico will tighten their monetary and credit control while maintaining an orderly interest rate system.

The Mexican president also instructed the Finance Secretariat to negotiate very soon a foreign credit sufficient to mitigate the possible effects of a reduction in oil revenues on the current balance of payments account. The purpose of these measures is to make certain that the reduction in the country's export revenues will not disrupt economic progress or price stability.

Costa Rica

Government To Implement Panama Border Measures

PA1610171488 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 16 Oct 88 p A-1

[Text] San Jose (DPA)—The Costa Rican Government will immediately implement measures in the area bordering Panama. In a press communique, Acting President Jorge Manuel Dengo announced that the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry will send a "strong and formal" note to the Panamanian Foreign Ministry describing the incident and demanding "an immediate end to this type of abuse by Panamanian military authorities."

According to reports, the incident took place on 11 October while a public works inspection was taking place in Coto Brus. A group of 12 people led by Costa Rican National Planning Minister Jorge Monge, discovered eight heavily armed Panamanian soldiers who were riding in two vehicles.

The measures to be implemented by the government include closing the border to Panamanian authorities if they are armed unless they request permission in writing. Another measure calls for reinforcing surveillance in the border area.

The Costa Rican Foreign and Public Security Ministries will also encourage the signing of "an agreement with the Panamanian authorities for surveillance and security along the border."

In the communique, the Costa Rican Government condemned the incursion of Panamanian soldiers into Costa Rica last Tuesday, but the note is not a protest note "inasmuch as the incident is not an act of aggression," according to Acting Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Rivera Bianchini.

El Salvador

Warrants Issued for Soldiers in Peasants' Deaths

PA1410132088 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] The lower court judge of San Sebastian in San Vicente Department today issued arrest warrants for four soldiers of the Jiboa Battalion. According to judicial sources, the arrest warrants were issued after proof was found of their participation in the killing of 10 peasants in San Francisco Canton.

The San Sebastian lower court ordered security forces to arrest four alleged members of the Army, who witnesses say are Jiboa Battalion soldiers, who killed 10 peasants in a village in northern San Vicente Department. The crime has been classified as homicide.

In view of the criminal investigation, the 5th Infantry Brigade sent a list of (?30) soldiers of the aforementioned battalion who participated in what it called a guerrilla ambush in which the peasants died. This list includes only one of the four implicated soldiers. His name is Hernan Ayala. Apparently there is no one to arrest or to blame specifically. [sentence as heard]

[Begin speaker recording] At 0900 today, this court issued arrest warrants for the folllowing people who are accused of homicide: Juan Avalo or Juan Avalo Barrera or Juan Barrera or Juan Barrera Avalo, description unknown, resident in this jurisdiction, son of Julio Avalo and Evangelina Barrera; Efrain Flores, description unknown, resident in Macho Viejo in this jurisdiction, son of Pedro Juan Flores; Sixto Carrillo, description unknown; and Hernan Ayala, also known as Chacalin. [end recording]

On the basis of what the San Sebastian judge decided, the authorities will be responsible for determining the whereabouts and arresting those implicated in 20 depositions by victims and witnesses.

[Begin speakers recording] All of those people who have testified accuse soldiers of the 5th Infantry Brigade of the Jiboa Battalion. But without exception [words indistinct] these members. [end recording]

Army Spokesmen on Incident

PA1510000288 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 14 Oct 88 p 16

[Excerpt] The commanding officers of the Salvadoran Army 5th Infantry Brigade stationed in San Vicente Department maintain their version that 10 alleged FMLN collaborators died in an ambush directed against Army soldiers in San Sebastian jurisdiction.

Meanwhile, General Adolfo O. Blandon, chief of the General Staff, said that the Army is interested in clarifying the circumstances surrounding the deaths of the peasants killed in Las Cebadillas, but that the Army will not acquiesce to political manipulations.

Although the Army reported that the peasants were killed in an FMLN ambush directed against Army troops that occurred when the soldiers were taking the peasants in to be questioned, several institutions, such as the archbishopric Legal Affairs Office, hold Jiboa Battalion troops responsible for the massacre. The archbishopric office bases its accusations on statements made by eyewitnesses. Army spokesmen in the San Vicente Department area, however, assert that the alleged eyewitnesses have been bribed and are victims of anonymous threats that have coerced them into making statements against the Armed Forces relating to this case. [passage omitted]

Government Supports Honduran Peace Proposal

PA1410161888 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Salvadoran Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta said today at the United Nations that El Salvador has accepted Honduras' proposal for the creation of a security commission to supervise Central America's borders.

Acevedo Peralta added that El Salvador is interested in Honduras' security commission proposal, which the Contadora Group has also hinted at. The Contadora Group, however, has pointed out that the initiative should include the creation of a system of gradual regional disarmament.

During his speech, Acevedo Peralta proposed the creation of a politically oriented Verification and Follow-up Commission that would ensure authentic, pluralist, and participatory democracy in the region, democracy that would respect all individual, social, political, and economic rights; authentic and free elections; and strictly observe human rights.

According to the foreign minister, this commission could visit the five Central American countries at its discretion to examine their situations and determine if these democratic commitments are being fulfilled.

'Urban Militias' Claim San Salvador Bombing

PA1410195888 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 14 Oct 88 p 4

[Excerpt] The Juan Castro Urban Militias have claimed responsibility for the dynamite attack on a residence in which the Laura Beauty Shop is located. The attack occurred yesterday morning in the Metropolis neighborhood in northwest San Salvador.

In telephone calls to the news media, an anonymous speaker, who said he was a spokesman of the Juan Castro Urban Militias, claimed responsibility for the attack, charging that the beauty shop was "a center of corruption." [passage omitted]

Rebels Damage Helicopter, Bomb Store in Capital

PA1610122388 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] The following are military reports received by Radio Venceremos on the victorious actions of our revolutionary army throughout the country:

Heavy fighting is continuing in Torola, Morazan. It has been confirmed that a UH-1M helicopter gunship was damaged by our antiaircraft fire. The report stated that heavy clashes between revolutionary troops and Cuscatlan Battalion soldiers took place this morning in (Sangelito), San Antonio del Monte jurisdiction, near Torola, Morazan. A UH-1M helicopter gunship was damaged when it came to support the military and had to leave the area immediately. We await further information on the number of casualties inflicted on the 3d Infantry Brigade during the battle in (Sangelito), in the northwestern San Antonio del Monte jurisdiction.

Our urban groups continue to be active in San Salvador. They are making our country and San Salvador unsafe for the colonels, corrupt officials, and oligarchs. FMLN urban units bombed (La Burguesita) store [words indistinct] in San Salvador at 0620 today. We await an official military report on this bombing of (La Burguesita) store, located in front of the Colonial Theater in San Salvador.

Guatemala

Cerezo Rejects Honduran Border Force Proposal

PA1610191188 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1759 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 16 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo shares Nicaragua's rejection of a Honduran proposal that a multinational peace force of troops from Spain, the FRG, and Canada be created to patrol the borders of Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador, because Cerezo feels this "could be dangerous."

Cerezo told ACAN-EFE today: "We continue to adhere to Esquipulas II." He was referring to the peace agreement signed in Guatemala City by the Central American presidents on 7 August 1987.

The Guatemalan president said the Honduran proposal that UN "blue helmets" be assigned to the Nicaraguan border "is not viable," because the participation of a multinational force "without first reaching specific agreements...could be dangerous."

Cerezo did not expand on this statement. [passage omitted]

The Guatemalan president favors the creation of a technical verification and security commission to be comprised of Canada, the FRG, and Spain "to discuss measures to resolve the regional conflict."

Regarding Honduras' alleged intention to "block" the peace negotiations among the region's presidents by proposing a multinational force, Cerezo said: "I cannot attest to this. All countries have the right to make proposals."

"For the moment," Cerezo said, "Guatemala will adhere to its decision to act within the framework of Esquipulas II."

Honduras

Azcona on Reaction to Country's Peace Proposal

PA1510010988 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Report by Danilo Antunes on interview with President Jose Azcona Hoyo—date and place not given]

[Excerpt] [Begin recording] [Antunes] [Passage omitted] Mr President, what do you think of the international reaction to the Honduran proposal presented at the United Nations to have an international peacekeeping force patrol the Honduran border with Nicaragua and El Salvador? In particular, how do you view the Costa Rican president's reaction?

[Azcona] I have not been fully informed about the Costa Rican president's reaction, but I believe that all the Central American and Latin American people are obligated to search for a solution. Thus far the country that has suffered the most as a result of the Nicaraguan situation is Honduras. We have in our country thousands of refugees. We also have [contra] fighters. We are not going to deny that. Their departure from Nicaragua was facilitated by the Sandinist regime itself when it [words indistinct] on the border with Honduras. I think it is time to promote stability and to find solutions to problems.

[Antunes] Will your government maintain this proposal despite U.S. Government opposition?

[Azcona] The United States is not opposed to the proposal. What it does not like is to be put at the same level as the Soviet Union in discussions on Central America. To a certain extent, the United States is right, because the military aid that the Soviet Union is giving to Nicaragua is 20 times more than the aid the United States gives to all the other Central American countries combined. [end recording]

The head of state denied that the Honduran proposal represents a reversal in policy.

[Begin recording] [Azcona] It is not a reversal. Honduras made a similar proposal at the United Nations last year and reiterated this position in a response made to President Ortega.

[Antunes] It is being said internationally that this Honduran proposal will fail.

[Azcona] If it fails, it will not be our fault. We just want to live in peace. We want to avoid being affected by situations created by people coming from Nicaragua into Honduras. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Rebel Group Claims Killing of U.S. Businessman

PA1510034088 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0323 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 14 Oct (REUTER)—Police sources and local radio stations have reported that a U.S. businessman who spent 2 years in jail for killing a Honduran in a land dispute was murdered in Tegucigalpa today. The attack was claimed by a guerrilla group.

Leo Edgar Mills, 63, who lived in Honduras since the 1950's, was shot with a 9-mm pistol in the back of the neck while jogging in the streets of a Tegucigalpa suburb.

Shortly after the murder, two local radio stations reported they had received telephone calls from the Morazanist Patriotic Front claiming responsibility for the action.

In a communique read by a woman, the rebels accused Mills of "committing crimes against Honduran peasants and inhabitants of poor neighborhoods" and "of lack of respect for our laws and national symbols."

The victim, who was married and had two children, owned a ranch and land near Tegucigalpa. He was jailed in 1981 for the murder of a Honduran. Mills also appeared in court in a dispute over land owned by his wife that had been occupied by peasants.

Nicaragua

Ortega Urges Church Condemnation of U.S.

PA1510182488 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1642 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega at a "Face the People" meeting in Santa Teresa, Carazo Department—live]

[Text] Today is a happy and festive day. You have been clearly stating your demands, your just demands. The revolution was carried out to resolve problems that were not being resolved before. It was carried out to improve the conditions of the workers and the peasants. This is why we carried out the revolution. You are entitled to make demands about electricity and water services, about schools and roads. That is fine. You are demanding land to improve production. Peasants need land to increase production.

Could anyone say that making these kinds of demands is bad? What do you think? Is it bad to ask for land for the peasants? Is it bad to request schools for children? Is it wrong to request water services for the community, or that roads be repaired? [crowd shouts: "No"] Right. Could it be wrong to ask for sugar to be able to make candies and bake pies?

These are things the Nicaraguan people want. These are things the revolution wants. These are things that the Sandinist Front and the government want. These are the things that Christians want. I was educated as a Christian, a Catholic. Christ preached for everybody to love one another. This is what Christ taught us.

You are honoring this town's saint, St Teresa. We are celebrating this day with wishes for better days, not for worse ones. St Teresa is a saint precisely because she cared for the well-being of the poor, of the humble, of the workers. It is good to keep this in mind because we have a powerful enemy in the United States: the U.S. Government and its policy; Ronald Reagan—the enemy of Nicaragua. Ronald Reagan does not want the people to have schools. He does not want the people to exercise their right to speak and to meet with their leaders, as we are meeting here this morning to discuss problems, to criticize whatever has to be criticized. Reagan does not want peace for the Nicaraguan people; he only wants war for them. Thus, if our comrades, our women, have to be mobilized it is because the circumstances so demand, not because we like to fight. If we are attacked we have to defend ourselves. There is no other way; we have to defend ourselves.

If Ronald Reagan and the United States are Nicaragua's main enemies, then the Nicaraguan people clearly understand who is harming them. The revolution cannot harm the people. The revolution is concerned with building and Ronald Reagan has ordered destruction.

Imagine: Recently Reagan asked the Yankee Congress to approve funds to continue the war against Nicaragua. Congress approved $76 million. Imagine what the result would be if we multiplied $76 million by 320, as the official exchange rate is $1 for 320 cordobas. Imagine what the result would be if we multiplied $76 million by 500.

Imagine how many million cordobas we would have had available to repair roads, to build health centers in this town, to bring electricity to so many of you who need electricity. However, the Yankees, instead of delivering money to the Nicaraguan people to help them, use the money so the contras can destroy the peasant cooperatives and the peasants' health centers, so the contras can kill the peasants, who suffer the most. Peasants in war zones are the ones who suffer the most. If I go to a war zone as I have done on other occasions, they would not even dare tell me about the electricity problem. They have other problems. What peasants in war zones tell me is: Comrade, we need you to give us rifles. That is what they ask for so they can defend themselves from the contras. We need a machinegun to defend us from the contras, they have told us. Or they tell me: We need an RPG-7. In other words, peasants there are working to produce beans, corn, coffee, and are demanding weapons to defend themselves. Those are the first things they ask us. Then, they ask for spare parts, machetes, or anything dealing with agricultural production or livestock breeding. However, first they ask about defense, because they have difficult conditions, more difficult than the conditions we see in other places.

However, the main thing responsible for the Nicaraguan people's difficulties is the Yankee government. All Nicaraguans have the obligation to point this out. If the Yankee government is the main one responsible, we must condemn the Yankee government so it changes its attitude, corrects its position, and ceases harming the Nicaraguan people. We have been asked: What do you think about the next U.S. president? They are going to have elections in November, there are two candidates, one whose name is Bush, a second whose name is Dukakis—what do you think? Well, we do not interfere in their affairs. We let them solve their own problems. What we want is for them to stop meddling in our matters and to stop harming us. We are not even asking them to help us.

The best aid the Yankee government could give us is to respect the Nicaraguan people, stop attacking Nicaraguan people, stop killing Nicaraguan children, and stop causing suffering for Nicaraguan mothers. That is the least the Yankee government could do.

Taking into account the fact that most Nicaraguans say we are Christians, and I emphasize that we say we are Christians because it is one thing to say we are Christians and it is another thing to act like Christians... [changes thought] Those who say they are Christians and do not condemn the Yankee Government are not acting like Christians because they are hiding a fact and are afraid of facing the devil, the evil, which is the Yankee policy. In other words, the Yankee policy is an evil policy. Therefore, all people here in Nicaragua, beginning with those heading the Catholic Church—the bishops and the cardinal [Miguel Obando y Bravo]—have the moral obligation to condemn the Yankee government and to not stain their hands by receiving the Yankee government's money. Therefore, those whom we see acting as Christians deserve to be called Christians; otherwise, they will not be acting as true Christians.

Every year the U.S. bishops—there are Catholic and Protestant churches in the United States, but while most of the U.S. people are Protestants you will also find some Catholics; therefore, you will also find Catholic bishops and cardinals—condemn Reagan's policy against Nicaragua. If U.S. bishops have been condemning Reagan's policies against Nicaragua for all these years, if they have the honesty and courage to act like Christians and every year tell Ronald Reagan: Sir, do not continue acting that way against Nicaragua, do not continue attacking Nicaragua, respect Nicaragua, stop killing the Nicaraguan people—why cannot the Nicaraguan bishops do likewise? The least Nicaraguan bishops could do would be to follow the U.S. bishops' example and condemn the Yankee policy. If the Nicaraguan bishops were to condemn the Yankee policy, they would be helping to force the Yankee to put an end to the war. However, if you remain silent, you become an accomplice. And if you try to justify the Yankees' criminal actions, you will become an accomplice of the crimes being committed against the Nicaraguan people.

Therefore, if you wish to contribute to peace, if you really want to help keep the people from dying—and this is the worst part of the problem, the people are dying, the children are being murdered by Reagan's counterrevolution, youths are being murdered by Reagan's counterrevolution, the mothers are suffering because of Reagan's policy, the economic problems we experience are even worse because of Reagan's policy, serious problems are caused for our economy, and we face even bigger problems when we try to confront the demands you are making; it is very difficult for us not to say yes to every demand you make even though we know that these demands are just and correct—then you must condemn the Yankee government's policy and you cannot accept money from the Yankee government.

The situation would be different if the Yankee government had put an end to the war against Nicaragua and had decided to approve a plan to help the Nicaraguan people. That would be something different. In the long run, that money comes from the U.S. people, who do not agree with Reagan's policy. That money, that aid, does not come from Reagan's pocket. Reagan is a rich man; however, he will not take a single dollar from his pocket to give to the mercenaries. He takes that money from the U.S. people's pockets. He takes the money from the U.S. people's pocket and pays those killers to come to Nicaragua and harm the Nicaraguan people, to make the Nicaraguan people suffer.

On this day of celebration, on this day of joy, on this day that has religious significance because this town was named after a saint, and considering that Nicaragua is a Christian nation, then we must call on the Christian

forces and the Christian people who are the church of God. We must also call on and urge the bishops and the cardinal to contribute to peace. We must urge them to contribute to peace by condemning the Reagan policy and by not accepting that blood-stained money. It is quite clear that if they were to change their attitude, if the attitude of some leaders of opposition political groups were to change, this would contribute to peace in Nicaragua. If they do not change their attitude, they will become accomplices and instruments of the policy of death that Ronald Reagan has implemented against the Nicaraguan people.

Comrades, this is what we wanted to talk to you about. We have made several promises here. If you see that time is passing and no progress is made and our promises are not being kept, you have to immediately seek a way to bring that to our attention, to complain, to remind us. After all, if we go somewhere else, we hear another set of problems, and if you do not remind us, when we meet here again in a year or two, you will say to me: Nothing of what we talked about was done; you made promises and did not keep them. That cannot be allowed to happened, so you must be on guard to see that what we agreed on here is carried out.

Our comrade ministers have the duty to implement what we agreed upon here, and it is your duty to be on guard to see that it is carried out, so that by our next meeting the CDI [child development center] will be working well. The lady who owns a house and rents out another should share her wealth like a good Christian. We will recognize the value of the house that is used for a preschool, and in this manner she will be contributing to the children of the area. We will have to arrange this. By our next meeting you should have the movie house, the roof should have been put on the school, and the other problems should have been solved. In other words, all the promises made to the residents should have been kept. The comrade artist, the musician, should also have received his accordion.

Long live the people of Santa Teresa. Free fatherland! [crowd shouts: "Or death!"]

Obando Homily Explains Vehicle Purchase

PA1710001788 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2320 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Managua, 16 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo today lamented the Managua government's "harassment of and slander against" the Catholic Church over the past few days.

In his homily today at the La Sierrita Church, Managua's provisional cathedral, the cardinal insisted that he will continue "serving" to achieve reconciliation in this Central American country.

Obando y Bravo said that "the church does not have the money with which to pay the taxes" demanded by the Nicaraguan Government for the release from customs of the 17 vehicles to be used to undertake the verification tasks outlined in the Sapoa agreements signed in March by the Managua government and the contras in order to achieve national peace.

The vehicles, acquired by the archbishopric curia last week with funds from the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID), have yet to be delivered. Their purchase provoked harsh attacks on the church by the Sandinist media.

Obando y Bravo said that the government had requested that as member of the Verification Commission—to which OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares also belongs—he verify various contra attacks.

"The church provides service, but it is no fool," the cardinal stressed, adding that the verification tasks require personnel and equipment that the church does not yet have.

In his homily, the cardinal read the regulations under which the Verification Commission established by the Sapoa agreements operates, which state that each of the commission's members—the church and the OAS secretary general—can acquire the material resources they deem necessary. [passage omitted]

Further on Comments

PA1610223788 Paris AFP in Spanish 2136 GMT 16 Oct 88

[Text] Managua, 16 Oct (AFP)—Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, in reply to a Sandinist request that he condemn U.S. policy, said today that bishops have always wanted Nicaragua to build its future without interference from "the Soviets or anyone else."

"We are interested in our people's welfare," and we want them to have food and medicine available now when "they are facing a difficult situation," the cardinal told journalists at the end of his Sunday mass.

President Daniel Ortega publicly demanded on Saturday that the Catholic Church, whose relations with the government deteriorated shortly after the Sandinist victory in 1979, clearly condemn the "criminal" U.S. policy in Nicaragua.

Regarding the controversial purchase of 18 new vehicles with U.S. Government funds, Obando y Bravo said that Defense Minister General Humberto Ortega had authorized the church to use those funds for expenses involved in carrying out duties related to the verification process, which was established in the Sapoa agreements signed by the rebels and the government on 23 March.

There are intense disagreements between the government and the church on this issue. The government is criticizing the church for receiving "blood-stained money" from the United States, while the cardinal is accusing the Sandinists of promoting "a campaign to discredit" the church.

PPSC Supports Obando, Condemns 'Campaigns'

PA1410190588 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 0400 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Letter from Popular Social Christian Party Deputy Ramon Arbizu Martinez to Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo—date not given]

[Text] Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo
Managua Archbishopric Curia

Your Eminence:

I am writing to Your Excellency on behalf of the Popular Social Christian Party, PPSC, to offer my solidarity to you as pastor of the Catholic Church and president of the National Reconciliation Commission.

I condemn the hatred and disinformation campaigns against your eminence by the progovernment media, especially EL NUEVO DIARIO.

The regular visits to the curia by ladies manipulated by the government and with the support of the official media are clearly intended to slander and denigrate the Nicaraguan Catholic Church.

Incidents like these only serve to distance us from peace and to destroy one another.

I therefore give you my support during these dificult moments for all Nicaraguan people and reiterate to your excellency that I shall raise my voice in parliament to end the official media's harassment of the Catholic Church.

Peace and freedom should be the result of truth and justice.

I remain, with all respect,

[Signed] Ramon Arbizu Martinez,
Deputy, National Assembly

cc: OAS Secretary General Joao Clemente Baena Soares
LA PRENSA newspaper
"21 Hour" newscast
"The Awakening" newscast
"2200 Sharp" Radio Corporacion newscast
Dr Luis Humberto Guzman, PPSC parliamentary faction leader

Opposition Parties in Exile Form New Bloc

PA1410214588 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2002 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] San Jose, 14 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—Five Nicaraguan political parties in exile announced in Costa Rica the formation of a new opposition bloc, the Democratic Center Coalition [Coalicion de Centro Democratico], (CCD). The bloc intends to fight for the chance to return to Nicaragua in the next 4 months to take part in the country's domestic political affairs.

The Southern Opposition Bloc (BOS), the Nicaraguan Conservative Party in Exile, the Social Democratic Movement of Nicaragua in Exile, the Christian Democratic Party, and the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement, all members of the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN), harshly criticized what they described as that organization's "traditional rightist" tendency.

Alfredo Cesar, BOS president and RN Directorate member, said that the group intends to make a proposal to the Managua government within the next 30 days in which it would offer a political solution to the conflict. Cesar said that war "is not an alternative" at this time.

Reports from a news conference held today in San Jose indicate that this proposal will first be analyzed by the other Central American governments, U.S. senators, and various political opposition forces in Nicaragua.

Christian Democratic Party member Jose Davila said that despite the fighters' efforts, war "is not an alternative for solving Nicaragua's problem at the present time" because the governments of the four other [Central American] countries "are seeking a negotiated solution to the conflict."

The five groups' declaration states that "the CCD intends to find a solution to the conflict by promoting an agreement between the four Central American democracies and the new administration" to be sworn in in the United States on 20 January 1989.

The new bloc "is taking this initiative because the traditionally rightist sector, which has tried to take control, has had neither the ability nor the imagination to generate a prompt solution to the Nicaraguan conflict in the past seven years of struggle," the declaration added.

Davila said to ACAN-EFE that the so-called "traditionally rightist sector" has controlled the RN Directorate since the group's last meeting held in the Dominican Republic in mid-July. He added that the group is headed by Adolfo Calero.

The Christian Democratic leader said that the proposal they will present to the Sandinist government has already been discussed with a few Central American

officials. The proposal discusses peace and offers a solution to the conflict as well as a means to achieve the nation's physical, political, and moral reconstruction.

Cesar told ACAN-EFE that at present the conditions needed to return to Nicaragua do not exist. He added, however, that this new proposal is an attempt to create the proper conditions to allow the exiled opposition to participate in the Central American parliament, municipal councils, and presidential elections.

"We are willing to promote this agreement to attain lasting peace" in Nicaragua, Cesar said. Cesar is the only member of the RN Directorate to participate in this new coalition.

Cesar, Davila, Roberto Urroz, and Fernando Aguero, who participated in the news conference, repeatedly said that the "traditionally rightist sector" was responsible for the stagnation of the Nicaraguan struggle and accused it of increasing the RN Directorate's dependency on the United States. Cesar stressed: "We will try to present a Nicaraguan solution to our conflict."

Wheelock Calls for End to Foreign Debt Payments

PA1510144388 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 13 Oct 88 p 4

[Text] Upon his return from a conference sponsored by the FAO, Jaime Wheelock, Nicaraguan agricultural development and agrarian reform minister, said "Nicaragua will cease paying its foreign debt."

Wheelock said that to overcome the region's serious economic crisis and reactivate agricultural production and the farming industry, the payment of the foreign debt must immediately stop.

Minister Wheelock said the United States is responsible for Nicaragua's economic disaster, which has forced Nicaragua to introduce a number of economic measures since February 1988.

Despite Wheelock's call to stop paying the foreign debt—a call that has also been made by Cuba's Fidel Castro—the other delegates to the 20th FAO regional conference for Latin America did not support the measure.

The most important aspect of Wheelock's visit to Brazil is the signing of two agreements with the FAO. The first agreement is for $2.19 million and the second is for $90,000. The money will be invested in the preservation and use of natural resources in the Marrabies Mountains and in the use of agricultural and farming byproducts for cattle food.

Wheelock said the delegation he headed had the full support of the rest of the Latin American countries, although there was no agreeement supporting his proposal that sought a condemnation of U.S. actions.

Panama

Government To Seize Assets for Unpaid Taxes

PA1610135088 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 16 Oct 88 p 1-A

["Special announcement" issued by the General Directorate of Revenue of the Ministry of Finance and Treasury—date not given]

[Text] It is hereby announced to the public that the General Directorate of Revenue of the Ministry of Finance and Treasury will proceed to take the legal steps provided by its appropriatative authority [jurisdiccion coactiva] to collect income tax that has been retained and not turned over to the national treasury.

The measure will be taken regardless of the nationality or legal status of the employer.

Consequently, employers who have not remitted, or will not remit in the future, to the national treasury taxes deducted from their employees' wages have caused the General Directorate of Revenue to seize [afectados] the [employees'] assets (personal property and/or real estate) by means of attachment [embargos] and the subsequent auction of said assets, in accordance with the provisions of the judicial code and cabinet Decree No 109/70, which regulate appropriatative authority.

General Directorate of Revenue

Plebiscite Demanded So Solis Can Retain Post

PA1410160788 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 14 Oct 88 p 1

[Text] A movement has been founded in Chiriqui Province demanding a plebiscite so President Manuel Solis Palma can remain in his position, a spokesman for the organization has said.

Our source has assured us that the movement that has requested the plebiscite for Solis Palma to continue heading the executive branch has done so because of his patriotic, upright, nationalistic, and democratic stance.

CRITICA will print hundreds of telegrams from citizens that support President Solis Palma's position of defending the best interests of all Panamanians.

Call 'Gaining Ground'

PA1510193688 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 15 Oct 88 pp 1, 14

[Text] The proposal to hold a plebiscite so President Manuel Solis Palma can remain in the Presidency for the 1989-1994 term is gaining ground in Panama, particularly in Chiriqui Province, where the idea originated.

The first telegrams in support of a plebiscite arrived at the CRITICA newsroom yesterday, and others have been sent directly to General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces.

The telegrams express support for the idea of having a national plebiscite to confirm the current president in his post for an additional 5 years, because of his extraordinary efforts during this period in which the country has

been subjected to arbitrary pressure and blackmail by the U.S. superpower.

Chiriqui residents Martin Candanedo M., identification card No 4-58-1429, and Leopoldo Aparicio, identification card No 4-124-17844, have asked Commander Noriega to "use your good offices to ask the parties that comprise UNADE [National Democratic Union] to promote a national plebiscite to confirm Manuel Solis Palma as president of the Republic for the 1989-1994 term."

It is expected that in the next few days, other provinces will join in this movement that originated in the Chiriqui highlands, specifically the central provinces and the Azuero region [Herrera, Los Santos, and Veraguas Provinces], President Solis Palma's birthplace. Telegrams in support of the plebiscite can be sent to the CRITICA offices.

Politician Supports Solis

PA1610153288 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 16 Oct 88 pp 1-A, 8-A

[Text] LA REPUBLICA reporters have conducted a poll of honorable corregimiento representatives about a national plebiscite so President Manuel Solis Palma may remain president. The results were as follows:

Opinion of Representative Edgardo Vernaza, from Alcaldediaz:

In spite of the short time that Manuel Solis Palma has been in charge of the executive branch, he has known how to cope with the U.S. aggression against Panama. In the field of foreign relations, he has carried the voice of the Panamanian people to other nations and has obtained international solidarity for the Panamanian cause. Vernaza added that in the domestic field, Solis Palma has maintained a firm attitude of austerity to prevent the dismissal of public employees, which shows he has the makings of a great statesman.

After pointing out that Solis Palma has also given evidence of great solidarity with the principles of the Panamanian revolution, Vernaza said Solis Palma is fully identified with the ideals of the FDP [Panama Defense Forces] in its struggle to maintain our sovereignty. The honorable representative added that if elections are not held in May, it would be just to recognize in Manuel Solis Palma all of these merits so he may continue in his presidential role and pull the country out of the crisis in which it is submerged.

U.S. Helicopter Emergency Landing 'Aggression'

PA1410150288 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 14 Oct 88 p 1

[Text] New proof of the constant U.S. violations of the Torrijos-Carter treaties was evident yesterday afternoon when a U.S. Cobra combat helicopter, equipped withradar and with a crew of seven heavily armed U.S. soldiers, had to make an emergency landing in Chumical, endangering the lives of the residents of this area of Veracruz corregimiento.

[The article is accompanied by a 5 by 10 inch photo captioned "More Proof of the Aggression Against Panama" that shows a helicopter in a field with civilians, mostly children, and three unidentified uniformed men standing near it.]

Bank Branch Denies Money Laundering Charges

PA1610190688 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 16 Oct 88 p A-1

["Declaration" issued by the Panamanian branch of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI)—date and place not given]

[Text] In the past 48 hours, BCCI has been questioned by U.S. Government agencies and their counterparts in London and France regarding our customers' accounts with BCCI. BCCI has fulfilled all requirements and will continue to do so. One of the bank officers at the London branch has been charged under Section No 24 of the 1986 Drug Trafficking Agreement. Two officers at the Paris branch have been arrested. Three Miami branch officers have also been arrested by local authorities. Later today, BCCI expects that charges will be filed against some of its officers in the United States.

Very serious charges have been filed. BCCI has not seen the charges, which do not reflect any specific accusation. The bank is totally unaware of any violation that may have occurred. It seems, however, that the actions taken by authorities in the aforementioned countries are part of an international investigation of individuals and institutions. BCCI has been implicated in this evil campaign, which will have to be clarified in the courts.

The bank wants to emphatically clarify that it has not been knowingly involved in money laundering related to drug trafficking.

As far as the bank is aware, these individuals—who have, or will have, charges filed against them—are innocent victims of circumstances.

The bank management wants to strongly clarify that it will do all it can to provide the necessary assistance to the authorities to solve or clarify these serious charges.

Some published reports mention that 85 people, including 6 BCCI employees, have been arrested.

BCCI is an institution with $20 billion [in assets] that operates in 73 countries around the world. BCCI is well known for its exchange activities, and it plays an important role in the development of Third World countries. Since it began operations, BCCI has been concerned with Third World events.

BCCI firmly believes in the U.S. legal system, and it trusts that the final result will be satisfactory.

Argentina

Group of 8 Arrives for Antidrug Conference

PY1410213988 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1532 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Oct (NA)—Colombian Justice Minister Guillermo Plazas Alcid arrived today in this capital to participate in a meeting to be held tomorrow called by the Argentine Government to assess the struggle against drug trafficking and consumption. Representatives of countries that comprise the Group of Eight will participate in this meeting.

The participants will seek to establish a common position regarding methods of fighting the production, trafficking, and consumption of dangerous drugs.

The meeting will be held tomorrow at Government House. The conclusions reached will be presented to the presidents of the Group of Eight countries at the next summit meeting, to be held in Punta del Este from 27-29 October.

The foreign ministers have been invited by Argentine Interior Minister Enrique Nosiglia, who welcomed Plazas Alcid at Ezeiza International Airport.

The Peruvian and Uruguayan interior ministers, Juan Soria Diaz, and Antonio Marchessano, respectively, and Brazilian Justice Minister Paulo Brossard are expected to arrive this afternoon.

Mexican Attorney General Sergio Garcia Ramirez, who will also participate in the meeting, will arrive tomorrow.

Brazil

Sarney Departs for France, USSR, Portugal

PY1510014288 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] This afternoon President Jose Sarney embarked on a 9-day international trip that will take him to France, the Soviet Union, and Portugal. After tranferring the presidential post to Chamber of Deputies President Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes, President Sarney departed for France and was scheduled to make a technical stopover in Recife for refueling.

Before arriving in Paris, Sarney will stop in Marseilles where he will attend a party celebrating the publication of the French translation of his book. He will arrive in Paris tomorrow, and Sunday he will be received by President Francois Mitterrand. On Monday, he will continue on his trip to the Soviet Union, where he will also visit Leningrad. On 21 October, Sarney will leave the Soviet Union and fly to Portugal, the last leg of his tour. On 23 October, he will be back in Brazil.

Sarney Discusses Soviet Visit

PY1510015088 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] In his Friday radio program, President Jose Sarney said today that his trip to the Soviet Union will open the way for political, cultural, and economic cooperation.

"This trip is highly significant. First, it will give a character of absolute normality in our relations. We are closing a period of relations marked by ideological prejudice, and we are opening a path for broad and dynamic cooperation in the political, cultural, and economic areas with one of the major powers."

The president recalled that this is the first time a Brazilian head of state will visit the Soviet Union.

"We will sign several agreements in the areas of science and technology, space activities, cultural exchanges, and political affairs. We thus will proceed with our foreign policy, which was initiated and given dynamism during my government. This policy aims at placing our country in the new stage of global politics. In Moscow, I will have the opportunity to inaugurate a Brazilian goods fair and to initiate an ample debate by businessmen about Brazil and its economic possibilities."

According to the president, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has already made a place for himself in the contemporary world by his efforts in favor of peace and disarmament.

"This new stage in Brazilian and Soviet relations has been made possible thanks to the Brazilian democratic process and perestroyka that has made possible a new vision of the world in which we are not separated from reasons of race, religion, government regimes, but united by solidarity in the search for a better world."

President Sarney also said that his trip to France, the Soviet Union, and Portugal is necessary so that Brazil can take its place in the world and defend its interests.

Fidel Castro To Visit Sao Paulo on 25 January

PY1610013588 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 15 Oct 88 p 5

[Text] Sao Paulo—Cuban President Fidel Castro will visit Brazil on 25 January 1989 to participate in the opening ceremony of the Latin American Memorial [Memorial da America Latina] in Sao Paulo. President Jose Sarney will preside over the ceremony, which is sponsored by Sao Paulo Governor Orestes Quercia, who confirmed the date for Fidel Castro's visit yesterday.

Following the confirmation of the Cuban president's visit, the Sao Paulo State Federation of Industries (FIESP) export sector said that Fidel's presence in Brazil could improve the trade and diplomatic relations between the two countries, relations that were resumed 2 years ago.

Governor Orestes Quercia denied that his invitation to Fidel Castro to visit Brazil has caused problems with the Foreign Ministry for having bypassed Itamaraty. Quercia also said that he is unaware of any veto by the Armed Forces of Castro's visit.

Quercia said: "As far as I know, the Brazilian Foreign Ministry had already invited the Cuban president to visit Brazil. Therefore, I did not invite him, the federal government did."

Itamaraty sources have confirmed that Minister Abreu Sodre did not like Quercia's invitation to Fidel and that some militarymen are opposed to the Cuban president's visit.

Presidential Spokesman Comments

PY1610015788 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 15 Oct 88 p 5

[Text] Brasilia—Yesterday presidential spokesman Carlos Henrique denied that President Jose Sarney vetoed Cuban President Fidel Castro's visit to Brazil. Henrique also said it is not true that the Armed Forces oppose Fidel's presence in Brazil.

According to Carlos Henrique this is the first time Castro has been invited to Brazil and "the president has not voiced any restrictions whatsoever."

The presidential spokesman said President Sarney was responsible for the resumption of diplomatic relations between Brazil and Cuba and that he has defended that decision before all Latin American countries.

Chile

Report on Repercussions of No-Vote Support

PY1310224488 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1716 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Santiago, 13 Oct (EFE)—Chilean union leaders have denounced the dismissal in several regions of the country of workers who repudiated the candidacy of General Augusto Pinochet in the 5 October plebiscite.

Moreover, Fernando Gallardo, well-known Chilean theater actor, has reported that the ultrarightist group "Fatherland and Liberty" has sent him a death threat, after accusing him of being a militant of the illegal Communist Party.

Ricardo Barrenechea, regional president of the Central Labor Union (CUT) in Concepcion, 515 km south of Santiago, has denounced that some businessmen of the southern zone have dismissed personnel after the no-vote victory at the plebiscite.

Barrenechea called this type of action vengeance. He stated that the CUT, which groups more than 80 percent of unionized workers at the national level, "has detected the dismissal of teachers, employees of agriculture and wood enterprises, workers from service, leather, and shoe companies."

In Lebu, 660 km south of Santiago, the local human rights commission has made similar denunciations, while in Calama, 1,550 km north of Santiago, eight employees who supported the opposition to the military government of Gen Pinochet have reportedly been dismissed.

Gallardo the theater actor who received death threats, has reported that he had received a letter from "Fatherland and Liberty" which states: "Today we have the patriotic task of eliminating you. You will be the first, then others will be eliminated. We no longer want communists in the country."

Gallardo has been awarded on two occasions by theater critics with the golden medal, and in 1981 he was elected best author of the year for his work "Carrascal 4.000."

Further on Opposition Parties' Declaration

PY1410232388 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Excerpts] The group of 16 opposition political parties and groups has drafted a declaration which their spokesman Patricio Aylwin read today. The declaration proposed five drastic amendments to the Constitution and made seven demands labeled gestures. [passage omitted]

The statement of the opposition parties stressed President Pinochet's alleged inflexibility, but made it clear that these parties do not want any institutional or legal vacuum.

The declaration also pointed out that the government junta must necessarily be one of the interlocutors in the dialogue that the opposition wants with the government.

The opposition acknowledged that the Armed Forces and Forces of Order have fulfilled their commitments to ensure a normal development of the voting and vote count at the plebiscite.

The declaration concluded by stating that the opposition parties plan to maintain their organization and unity, although it will take a great effort to do so, and by expressing their intention to appoint a single presidential candidate for the next presidential elections.

Opposition Calls for Constitutional Amendments

PY1410210888 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1945 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] The 16 opposition political parties that had joined forces for the no-vote this afternoon released a declaration addressed to the nation. The declaration is entitled "A Proposal for a National Consensus."

One of the main topics of this proposal is that the 16 opposition parties reaffirm their commitment to continue joint actions throughout the country as a group of parties united in the pursuit of democracy.

The declaration, read by Patricio Aylwin, states: we express our will to nominate a single presidential candidate of the opposition, who will run on a program based on a broad national consensus.

The proposal of the 16 opposition parties advocates a consensual transition to democracy, for which the following amendments must be made to the Constitution:

1. Permanent provisions of the Constitution concerning reform of the Constitution must be amended to give congress the constituent powers to which it is entitled.

2. All members of congress must be elected by the people to ensure proportional representation.

3. Political restriction must be lifted immediately, and Article 8 of the Cosntitution must be abrogated to guarantee an effective pluralism in keeping with the agreement signed on 2 February 1988 [by which the opposition parties pledged to vote no in the plebiscite].

4. The number of civilian members of the National Security Council must be increased, and the powers of that council must be amended in order to ensure full respect for the principle of the supremacy of popular sovereignty.

The 16 parties also emphasized the need to abrogate the regulation that makes it impossible to remove the commanders in chief of the Armed Forces and the forces of order. The proposal states that the president must have the right to appoint people whom he trusts to those jobs.

The proposal adds: We also believe that certain gestures contributing to national reconciliation and social tranquillity are necessary. Therefore we demand the release of Clodomiro Almeyda and Oscar Guillermo Garreton; the end to the domestic exile of Manuel Bustos and Arturo Martinez; the dropping of lawsuits against journalists, social and youth leaders, and all other lawsuits that constitute political harassment of people and political parties; the investigation of human rights violations so that justice can be done and reparations made; the full reestablishment of university autonomy; a pluralist television capable of guaranteeing objective reporting and equitable access for all political groups; the disbanding of the National Intelligence Center; and the end to all kinds of reprisals and to the activities of violent gangs.

This is part of the proposal for a national consensus, which Patricio Aylwin, spokesman for the 16 parties for the no-vote, released this afternoon. Aylwin added that the group will from now on call itself the Coalition of Parties for Democracy [Partidos Concertados por la Democracia].

FPMR Leader Says Armed Struggle To Be Resumed

PY1410191988 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1643 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Brussels, 14 Oct (EFE)—Marcelo Reyes, the international representative for the "Manuel Rodriguez" Patriotic Front [FPMR], told EFE today that the FPMR will resume the armed struggle in Chile following a truce observed during the plebiscite.

The FPMR, founded in 1983, has carried out more than 2,000 armed actions against the Chilean regime. The most spectacular of these actions was the ambush against General Augusto Pinochet on 7 September 1986.

The FPMR leaders "are not ruling out the possibility of killing Gen Pinochet." They hold him responsible for the killing of Salvador Allende and believe Pinochet "owes the Chilean people a large debt."

According to Marcelo Reyes, the objective of this struggle is to establish a patriotic government of national unity that will bring democracy to the country.

The FPMR believes this new government must abolish the 1980 Constitution, create a constituent assembly, attempt to sentence those involved in human rights violations, and democratize the Armed Forces by implementing constitutional and military measures to prevent them from being used to support the dictatorship.

"The solution to the Chilean problem does not merely involve replacing Pinochet, but changing the regime and recovering all the people's rights," Reyes said.

Marcelo Reyes is currently in Brussels as part of a European tour that took him to Sweden, the FRG, Denmark, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg.

Reyes will also visit Switzerland; Italy; and Spain, where the FPMR has a representative. "Broad segments of the Spanish society agree with our struggle," Reyes said.

In Belgium, Reyes met with members of several European Parliament groups and with diplomatic representatives of several countries in order "to clarify and explain the FPMR's position."

As late as 1986, the FPMR maintained close ties with the PCCh. Ties since then have been severed, however, as a result of disagreements on how to conduct the struggle against the Pinochet regime.

Throughout 1987 and in early 1988, the FPMR believed it was sufficient to call the workers to rebel in the main labor centers. Lately, however, it has changed tactics and is now waging "a patriotic and nationalistic war throughout the country."

The armed actions were suspended during the plebiscite, which was described by Reyes as "the tyrany's last decision to oppose the people's will."

The FPMR claims that it has a significant following in all segments of Chilean society, including the Armed Forces, and that, for this reason, the FPMR has become the main target of the government's repression against the opposition.

The FPMR is financed by international assistance, by donations from Chilean society, and by what Reyes describes as the FPMR's "economic recoveries" in Chile.

Ends 'Truce'

LD1510003888 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] In Spain the armed Chilean group, Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR], has announced the end of the unilateral truce maintained during the plebiscite. This is what a spokesman for the FPMR said:

[Begin unidentified spokesman recording] The FPMR is ending the truce which was introduced on the occasion of the plebiscite. We are doing it because we believe that the people who hoped to beat Pinochet by defeating him at the polls have had their opportunity and they have now been able to note that this was not sufficient to get rid of Pinochet. In fact, we know that Pinochet was defeated politically on 11 September 1973 and was internationally isolated on the same date, so the only defeat Mr Pinochet needs now is a military defeat. [end recording]

Matthei on Possible Changes in Constitution

PY1510151988 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0303 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Santiago, 14 Oct (EFE)—General Fernando Matthei, Chilean Air Force [FAB] commander and member of the Government Junta, today said he is willing to discuss changes in the Constitution with the opposition.

Matthei said this in English, as he talked to three foreign correspondents at the end of a "Mirage-50" exhibit. The "Mirage-50" is the first plane that has been modified by the FAB aeronautics company.

Matthei, who refused to discuss domestic policy issues with the numerous Chilean journalists who questioned him during the ceremony, told the foreign correspondents that the Government Junta has discussed some changes in the Constitution. However, he added: "We do not want changes on basic issues."

Asked to explain which are the basic issues in question, the FAB commander said there should be no changes in the role of government and the private property system.

Matthei declined to answer questions on eventual points of negotiation on Constitutional amendments. [passage omitted]

Lagos Denies Presidential Candidacy

PY1510184888 Madird EFE in Spanish 1632 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Santiago, 14 oct (EFE)—Socialist leader Ricardo Lagos, president of the coalition of parties for democracy, has denied any possibility of being a presidential candidate in the post-Pinochet era.

In a speech delivered last night in Santiago, Lagos said: "I am not a presidential candidate for the post-Pinochet era because we have to be unselfish at this time." He added: "Among 8 million Chileans, there must be a man or a woman who is able to unite us."

The moderate socialist believes that the opposition's task at this time is to continue as united as it was during the plebiscite.

Leaders from different opposition sectors have indicated four Christian Democratic Party [PDC] personalities who have better possibilities of heading the first PDC government. They are: Patricio Aylwin, former senate president; Gabriel Valdes, former foreign minister; Andres Zaldivar, former chairman of the Christian Democratic International [CDI]; and Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle, a PDC political leader.

The PDC has called a national meeting for 21 and 22 October. During this meeting, PDC leaders will establish party guidelines and strategies to be implemented in the next few months. They will also establish an internal mechanism for the appointment of the man who will be the PDC candidate.

Center and leftist sectors of the coalition have said they are willing to support a PDC candidate as a single opposition candidate. However, sectors of those parties which have supported the regime believe it is unlikely they will be able to select a single candidate. [passage omitted].

Matthei on Possible Lifting of Arms Embargo

PY1510115088 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Chilean Air Force Commander General Fernando Matthei stated today that his institution is not at all interested in a possible lifting of the U.S. arms embargo.

Quote, we are not at all interested because the Air Force is now looking elsewhere, unquote. You must understand that after 15 years one must make rearrangements, long-term rearrangements, because in technological matters, one cannot change and jump into the dark, Matthei stated.

He added that if the long-term embargo were lifted today, it would have no significance whatsoever. He explained that in the beginning the F-5 aircraft was affected by the embargo, because we did not have the technology, but now we have mastered it.

He concluded by saying that all F-5 aircraft are flying and recently they participated in very important maneuvers with U.S. aircraft carriers that were in Chile on the week of 18 September.

Air Force Displays Modified Mirage 50 Plane

PY1510113888 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] The Chilean Air Force today displayed a modified version of the Mirage 50 aircraft, which has capabilities four times greater than those of the original.

As of this morning, this is the star—the jewel—of the Chilean Air Force—the most complex plane to fly Chilean skies. The Pantera is a modified Mirage 50 aircraft.

During a simple ceremony at El Bosque air base, where ENAER [National Aeronautics Company] has its workshops, the new plane was displayed for the first time to members of the military high command and to the Air Force Commander in Chief, General Fernando Matthei. Foreign military attaches and Chilean Government officials also attended the ceremony as special guests.

In his speech, ENAER Director, General Caupolican Boisset stressed the technical development of the company that allows it to give the country this very complex piece of high technology. Once the speeches were over, the officials inspected the plane and exchanged impressions. Gen Matthei summarized some of these impressions:

[Begin Matthei recording] This plane costs less than half the price of the modern planes and that is important in itself. We have managed to increase the capabilities of this plane fourfold, which means that each Pantera is worth at least four Mirage aircraft when carrying out their mission. [end recording]

The (Canard) fins were the first modification made to the plane. These fins make the plane much more maneuverable. The electronic components have now been completed, giving the plane greater attack capabilities.

All the Mirage 50 planes that the Air Force now has will soon be modified in the same way as this Pantera 514.

Colombia

Parties, Government Agree on Constitutional Bill

PA1510010788 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Report by Jesus Garzon]

[Text] The Conservative and Liberal Parties and the Colombian Government reached an agreement on the constitutional amendment bill early this morning.

The two parties' representatives discussed the issue for 6 hours at the Narino Presidential Palace. The meeting ended at 0200, and former Colombian Presidents Julio Cesar Turbay and Misael Pastrana along with Government Minister Cesar Gaviria made statements to this newscast on the scope of the agreement. After 6 hours of discussion, the leaders of the Conservative and Liberal Parties and the government representatives reached basic agreements on the constitutional amendment bill.

The meeting, which began at 2000 and ended at 0200 this morning, included a dinner at the Narino Palace. President Barco, Government Minister Gaviria, and former Presidents Turbay and Pastrana discussed the constitutional amendement bill and reached significant agreements. At the end of the meeting, the participants announced an agreement on the following points: internal consultation within the political parties to choose presidential candidates; rewriting Article No 121, which deals with state of siege situations; amending Paragraph No 120, which deals with political equality; and amending the Constitution through a national referendum.

Pastrana and Turbay described the agreement as having a major impact on Colombia.

[Begin recording] [Turbay] We completely and fully agreed on the issues concerning the constitutional amendments. We are optimistic and believe the amendments will not encounter any major obstacles from now on.

[Pastrana] I believe we will make authentically Colombian constitutional amendments. The government and the two major political parties will be committed to those amendments. We also hope the rest of the Colombian people cooperate with this effort. [end recording]

The government representative expressed satisfaction over the the agreement.

[Begin Gaviria recording] I can say the agreement is satisfactory and guarantees the constitutional amendments will be carried out. [end recording]

Peru

Garcia Addresses Nation, Rejects Coup Rumors

PY1410141488 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] President Alan Garcia today stated that the Peruvian people demonstrated their maturity and their cooperation when a great majority turned up at their jobs despite the difficult time that the country is experiencing. He also said that the people have understood that work is necessary if the country is to advance.

He reaffirmed his confidence in the Armed Forces and rejected any possibility that democracy will be undermined.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Mr President, what was discussed today during the cabinet meeting held at Government House?

[Garcia] Among other problems we discussed today's strike and this is why I have approached you so that you can disseminate a message to the Peruvian people.

A strike was scheduled for today, but I can tell you that approximately 80 percent of the Peruvian people and the business and commercial sectors have worked normally. This is a typical trait and a demonstration of maturity and responsibility of the Peruvian people.

I know that there are many reasons why the Peruvian people may be irritated, why they may resent the government, and why they may even resent me, the president. But, today the people have demonstrated that they do not vent anger against the president or the government during difficult times. Today the Peruvian people have demonstrated a generosity and nobility that is lacking in many politicians and commentators. The Peruvian people know that we have not implemented the corrective measures in the economic sector because we are wicked, nor have we implemented them to serve foreign interests. It was only after trying to increase the ability to purchase consumer products and services that we have had to slow the process down somewhat so that there will be stability and growth next year without this year's inflation.

Regarding what I have just said, I personally want to address all Peruvians, men and women, those who have worked today and also those who have not worked, to tell them that from the early morning I have been closely following the attitude of the people. I wanted to know whether they would be overtaken by a sudden bout of despair or whether they would, with awareness and responsibility, fully understand that the measures are an irritation, a bother, and that they cause resentment, but they will yield good results in the coming months.

I have observed with satisfaction that the humble people, the working people, are more aware of reality and responsibility than many politicians and commentators, who only exaggerate what is bad, who insult, offend, and who undertake the task of making things worse, but this is because working people live off what they earn.

With their attitude today the working people have demonstrated that they know very well that the government should never be left alone, despite all the difficulties. And the people also know very well that we have implemented these measures to obtain improvement next year.

This is why I wanted to address this message of closeness to the people. I personally know that many of you may feel that you have been let down, those who had confidence in me and in the elections, and many more of you who had much more confidence in me afterward.

After the easy times we now have difficulties, but we have assumed the responsibility of correcting those difficulties. I know that deep down in their hearts all Peruvians understand this. I have felt this today as I have felt it during the past few days, and as I know that Peru is greater than all of its problems and the people of Peru are greater than many politicians.

[Reporter] Mr President, when will measures favoring the workers be revealed?

[Garcia] During the coming months the measures, which are very harsh and very severe, will slowly begin to show results that will help to consolidate and improve purchasing power. As I have always explained, during the first months of my government we may have exceeded our desire for growth, we exceeded in our desire to spread and increase the ability to purchase consumer products and services.

Then a time came when reality caused us to slow this process down. We had to avoid the deficit, in other words, an excess of expenditure, and to avoid the use of foreign exchange when we do not have very many dollars; thus, we implemented corrective measures.

We did this to correct matters, to put things in order, but not to pay foreign banks nor to allow a few people to get rich. Thus, we will soon be able to resume growth and distribution, which are the government's objectives. This growth and distribution will be solidly noted without the ups and downs of inflation within the next few months.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Garcia] Naturally the effects of the important measures that have been implemented will have to be evaluated. For example: A few days ago I observed that the increase in the price of medicine was excessive, even though the exchange rate, the price of the dollar, also played a role.

Tax exemption was the first measure to be adopted. A prior measure was to allow the sale of essential goods not only in presentation form, in cartons, bottles, etc., which make the products more costly, but also in bulk form.

And, we will continue to seek formulas that will help put medicine in the hands of everyone again, because not everyone can go to a hospital or buy essential and/or basic medicine. Many people, everyone, goes to the drug store and there they observe that this fluctuation of the exchange rate has had this unwanted effect which tended to skyrocket the price of medicine, and this concerns us very much. I can guarantee that this will be our main concern, the topic of medicine, and we will see how we can reduce the prices so that the people can once again have access to them.

[Second reporter] [Words indistinct] those products...

[Third reporter, interrupting] There have been a series of rumors concerning the retirement of General Silva Tuesta. What can you tell us about this topic?

[Garcia] Well, on this day of national responsibility, of national realism, and of popular generosity, because the people have fully understood the effort, and even the solitude, of some people, I wish to fully ratify the following: The nationalist economic model means that Peru retains its wealth, production, and its economic surplus within its boundaries in order to continue to grow.

This is why we stopped paying the foreign debt, and if we grew too quickly and if we used the dollars we had too quickly, then we corrected this situation, but only to continue to grow internally.

This nationalist model is going to be maintained and it will be consolidated, because growth and the redistribution of wealth depend on it. Secondly, we are going to grow and redistribute within democracy and freedom.

And, even though there are many people who do not know how to use their freedom, who are calling for coups d'etat through headlines and expressions of alarm, I wish to tell them that the government and Alan Garcia will defend the principle of civilized democracy. We want freedom for our people. Everything can be done within freedom.

I wish to reiterate that there is no danger of a coup d'etat or of an insurrection. I have total and absolute confidence in the high command of the Armed Forces and in the defense minister. I have total confidence in the high command of the Army. I know all of its members personally, and in addition I have confidence in their education. I know that none of them would allow himself to become an instrument of the bastard interests that many times want to undermine constitutional stability. None of them would allow himself to become an instrument of the IMF or an instrument of rightist interests.

Democracy, as with any type of system, has its problems, but they must be resolved within democracy. Thus, we must have the absolute certainty that there is no danger and that there can be no inference from an individual situation or a single incident.

Recently there has been talk—which was most probably encouraged by the Ocona dollar sellers—about a power vacuum, that the president has resigned, that there is a coup every night. I have even heard that on several I was being embarked for Buenos Aires at the Air Force's Eighth Group Airport, that I was wounded. I have heard all these rumors and lies [bolas] that are circulating in Lima about the fact that democracy had come to an end.

The only result that is obtained by these rumors is to make all our neighboring countries, friends, and brothers jumpy and to suddenly come to the conclusion that we are a tribal society, where laws and popular desires are not respected.

Yes, I can tell you that there is no danger of an interruption. The country has its problems, but it has a very responsible and generous people and I certainly know this even though the people might resent me. But, I can say that the people are enormously responsible and generous and the country has Armed Forces that will ensure that the desires of the people are respected.

Interior Minister Denies Coup Possibility

PY1410132088 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1040 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Interior Minister Juan Soria Diaz has denied the possibility of a coup, emphasizing that the Army leadership is regularly meeting with the head of state.

It has also been reported that some people have been captured in the past few hours. The attorney general's office is investigating these people for subversive activities.

Concerning the rumormongering on an alleged court employees stoppage, Soria Diaz said that the forces of order are complying with their duties and services as usual.

Further Comments

PY1510175488 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1040 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Interior Minister Juan Soria Diaz has said that all the possibilities of a coup have been ruled out because the government of President Alan Garcia has the resolute support and confidence of the Armed Forces' high command. The minister said that speculation about the

coup has been circulated by people who want to disrupt public order in order to establish a de facto government from which they can obtain higher political and economic dividends.

Concerning an alleged police strike, the minister said that it is a speculation circulated by terrorists, who, along with some policemen who were fired, want to alarm the people.

The minister made this remark at Jorge Chavez International Airport a few minutes before leaving for Buenos Aires, where he will attend a meeting of interior ministers of the Group of Eight.

Communique Explains General's Retirement

PY1510185088 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Lima, 15 Oct (EFE)—Peruvian Army General Victor Raul Silva Tuesta has been relieved of duty, and he then retired at his own request, for having "investigated" the allegedly unconstitutional attitudes of comrades in arms.

A Defense Ministry communique released today said that in the face of "speculation" by the press about the retirement of Silva Tuesta, the former First Military Region commander, the situation will be clarified. The communique noted that were if not for the speculation, "the situation would have remained strictly a military matter."

The communique said that Silva Tuesta was summoned to the Army general command to explain "the phone conversations with generals of different military regions to learn about allegedly unconstitutional attitudes, with insinuations that the Army high command shared such attitudes."

The Army command, the communique stated, considered that the behavior of Gen Silva "was not in keeping with his high military rank, and the fact that he cast doubts on the loyalty of the Army commander in chief to his constitutional duties revealed an inconsistent attitude toward the Army, toward his comrades in arms, and towards his comrades of promotion. These facts undermined the confidence of the high command."

The general was "privately reprimanded and relieved of duty"; he then decided to ask for his retirement, "and his petition was immediately accepted."

The communique concluded by saying that the resolution sending the general into retirement was signed by President Alan Garcia "immediately after receiving a comprehensive report on the situation."

Coup rumors gained ground last Saturday, when the newspaper EL COMERCIO mentioned a possible disruption of the institutional order. Rumors have circulated since.

On 11 October, the Defense Ministry issued a communique saying that on the previous day Silva Tuesta asked for his retirement. The communique provided no details.

On that day, the newspaper LA REPUBLICA said that Silva "frustrated" a military uprising by disclosing such alleged plans to political sectors.

In 1985, when President Alan Garcia took office, Silva was designated chief of the Military Household of the Presidency. A year and a half later, he was designated chief of the First Military Region, which is headquartered in Piura, 1,000 km from Lima.

On 13 October, after a long period of silence, President Garcia denied that there was a possibility of a military uprising, voicing his "absolute confidence" in the military commanders.

Gen Silva is believed to have been a contact for dissatisfied military groups for the purpose of plotting a coup to oust Garcia, after the president's own party refused to let him resign.

Garcia had thought about resigning after the harsh criticism against an economic adjustment plan set in motion on 6 September, which has plunged the country into a serious crisis.

On 14 October, Interior Minister Juan Soria said, before leaving for Buenos Aires, that the Armed Forces expressed their confidence in the president. In turn, Foreign Minister Luis Gonzalez Posada said that "Alan Garcia will stay until 1990," when his constitutional term will end.

For his part, business leader Rafael Villegas said that his sector supports democracy and that they would never encourage a coup.

Deputy Interior Minister Comments on Unrest

PY1510200088 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Interview with Deputy Interior Minister Agustin Mantilla by unidentified reporters; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mantilla] On 13 October, the forces of order undertook strong action, but they acted within the law. They have fully complied with their duties. There are always incidents, which are caused by the circumstances. The working class has reacted with responsibility and serenity. I believe that the call by union leaders, who are driven by political interest, has gone unanswered.

[Reporter] How many people were arrested yesterday?

[Mantilla] Approximately 300 people.

[Reporter] Where there subversives among them?

[Second reporter, interrupting] ...to avoid, for example, the case of the lawmakers who were affected?

[Mantilla] Look, that situation was deplorable, but the problems between the lawmakers and the police did not occur in the Congress; that is, in the lawmakers' working place or while the lawmakers were discharging their congressional duties. The incidents happened because the legislators were with groups that tried to stage terrorist actions and disrupt order. I, therefore, do not think the responsibility for the incidents can be placed on the police, who try to protect the people and private property. They cannot identify the legislators who are, regrettably, mixed in with the groups who want to disrupt order.

[Reporter] Are there terrorists among the detainees?

[Mantilla] Yes, there are approximately 15 high-ranking MRTA and Shining Path terrorists.

[Reporter] Is there any news about the death of the San Marcos University student?

[Mantilla] That is a truly deplorable situation and we wish it would not have happened. The case is not clear and we hope the investigations will yield some results.

[Reporter] What is the situation of arrested leader (Pedro Wilke)?

[Mantilla] The prosecutor, who is in charge of the investigations, has ordered (Wilke's) custody at the Anti-terrorist Directorate facilities until the investigations are complete.

[Reporter] Do you have confidence in the Armed Forces and the police, Sir?

[Mantilla] I have absolute confidence. You have seen the behavior of the police. The biased rumors circulated by some political sectors that tried to disrupt order within the police have been totally ruled out. We have total confidence in the behavior of the police.

[Reporter] Have the possibilities of strikes within the police been ruled out, then?

[Mantilla] Completely. They know we are making a big effort to solve their problems, to give them equipment, to increase their salaries, and to train them. They also know that the country cannot give them more than what we would like to give them. They have patience, like the rest of the country, so that all of us can jointly work for our development.

[Reporter] Several journalists were attacked by policemen at 2 de Mayo Plaza yesterday. Have any measures been taken to punish those policemen?

[Mantilla] Unfortunately, I have no information on the incidents. I saw the newscasts yesterday in search for some references, but I did not find anything on the subject. I know there were problems, because that is what the (?general) [words indistinct] has told me. There are some things that cannot be avoided no matter how hard you try, because they happen on the spur of the moment. No one with any common sense can think that the police have instructions to mistreat journalists.

Foreign Minister on Improving Country's Image

PY1510183888 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1040 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] The Foreign Ministry is making great efforts to improve Peru's image, which has been damaged by the recent wave of rumors that seek to destabilize the democratic system.

This statement was made by Foreign Minister Luis Gonzalez Posada, who described these rumors as harmful for the institutional honor of the Armed Forces, adding that they only seek to promote confrontation among the Peruvian people.

Uruguay

Interior Minister To Attend Antidrug Meeting

PY1510134688 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0930 GMT 15 Oct 88

[Text] Uruguayan Interior Minister Antonio Marchesano is in Buenos Aires to attend a meeting of interior ministers who make up the Group of Eight.

This meeting, to be held today in Buenos Aires, is designed to establish a joint position in the struggle against drug trafficking. The conclusions of this meeting will be submitted to the presidential summit of the Group of Eight that will take place in Punta del Este from 27 to 29 October.

Marchesano and his Colombian counterpart arrived in Buenos Aires in the last few hours. The arrival of the other Latin American interior ministers is expected in the next few hours.

Venezuela

Official on 'Normal' Border, Gulf Situation

PA1410234988 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] The situation along the border is normal because there are always military patrols keeping watch over it. This statement was made by Acting Defense Minister

Division General Julio Enrique Torres Uribe, who denied reports that Colombian frigates armed with missiles have entered Gulf of Venezuela waters.

[Begin Torres recording] I can officially inform you that the Venezuelan Navy is ever present in the Gulf of Venezuela. Reports about the presence of a Colombian frigate could be the result of people confusing Venezuelan ships for Colombian ships in those waters. [end recording]

Guyana

Opposition Parties Against U.S. Soldiers' Visit

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[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Oct 11, CANA—A group of Guyana opposition parties has condemned as "ill conceived and a potential threat to Guyana's sovereignty" a plan for a team of American soldiers to come here to participate in a number of community development projects. According to the local state-owned media, the U.S. soldiers will be engaged in drilling wells for potable water supply on the coastland and in the fight against malaria and other diseases in the vast hinterland.

In a statement issued here Guyana's Patriotic Coalition of Democracy (PCD) which groups a number of opposition political parties, said that the announcement about the impending visit has come at a time when Guyana is marking the 35th anniversary (October 9) of the suspension of the constitution of the then British Guiana. "The Patriotic Coalition for Democracy (PCD) notes that by a bitter irony of history, the ruling PNC (People's National Congress), in their financial desperation and lack of patriotic feeling, has opened the country to the soldiers of the U.S. Southern Command in what they are attempting to represent as a routine army to army cooperation," the statement said.

It added "while the PCD stands ready to welcome to our shores the skills and technological wonders of North American engineering and medicine, the coalition believes that civilian assistance would be more in keeping with Guyanese and Caribbean values."

"On this 35th anniversary of the British invasion," the statement went on, "the PCD condemns the invitation to the U.S. military as ill-conceived and a potential threat to Guyana's sovereignty. It is astonishing that a government which blocks the presence of Caribbean observers to national elections in the name of defence of Guyana's sovereignty, should now be throwing open our borders to the most powerful military force in the hemisphere. "The PCD calls on all patriotic Guyanese and their organisations to be vigilant and to work to keep Guyana free of all foreign armed forces." [quotation marks as received]